

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAR 30 1982

DATE ENTERED APR 29 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

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

140 North Warren Street

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

13th

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

34

COUNTY

Mercer

CODE

021

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

STREET & NUMBER

140 North Warren Street

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mercer County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

South Broad Street

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Cultural and Environmental Services

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Michael's features a well-articulated castellated Gothic Revival forward section and facade distinguished by polygonal towers and battlements completely enveloping an 18th century structure. The Gothic section is taller and broader than the simple gabled nave which lies behind. There is a cross-gabled transept to the north and apse to the east. The brick and brownstone structure is covered with light brown stucco. Wood trim is painted red. There are pointed-arch stained glass windows throughout.

The western forward section of St. Michael's is of Gothic Revival design in the castellated mode, dating from 1851. It consists of two squarish two story entrance pavilions connected by narrow recessed walls to slender projecting polygonal towers, which are in turn connected to each other by a broad screenlike front wall. All sections are capped with slightly corbelled crenellated parapets.

The end pavilions have double doors flanked by engaged thin wood columns and topped by a frieze which echoes the projections of the columns. On the front and outer side are second floor paired lancet windows set in rectangular wood surrounds. There are rudimentary buttresses at the corners.

The narrow recessed walls between corner blocks and towers have tall narrow paired windows in rectangular wood surrounds.

The polygonal towers are ringed with molding and taper slightly until topped by metal crenellated caps. The towers extend about 8 feet above the parapet of the center wall. This wall features a two story pointed-arched window with simple tracery, and a thin drip mold above.

The nave is an amalgam of extensions to the original 18th century structure. There are three tall pointed-arch windows on each side. The cross-gabled eastern section has two pointed-arch windows with an oculus above on the south side. To the north, the transept has pointed-arch windows on each side and a gabled entrance pavilion on the east side. The eaves and gabled ends of the nave and transept are edged with step-wise corbelled brick, alternating with a recessed cross motif on horizontal sections.

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 checked="" 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 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 Initially built - 1748 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Augustine M. VanKirk
Facade - 1851

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Michael's Church of Trenton, New Jersey, heir to a congregation organized in 1703, is the oldest parish of the Episcopal Church in the vicinity of Trenton, and is one of the oldest in New Jersey. The church building was initially constructed in 1748 and served as a Hessian barracks and a Continental Army hospital during the Revolutionary War. The present facade dates from 1851 and is a fine rare example of a castellated Gothic Revival design.

In 1748 the "English Church" was erected in Trenton by a congregation organized in 1703 in Hopewell, now Ewing Township, New Jersey (Trenton's only earlier religious institution was the Quaker Meeting House). This gabled building was approximately 40 feet square, built on an east-west axis on the east side of King (N. Warren) St., with the pulpit at the north side. The church became known as St. Michael's and was the parish of many leading Trenton families.

During the Revolutionary War services at St. Michael's were suspended because of the mixture of Loyalist and Revolutionary sentiment in the congregation. During the Hessian occupation of Trenton, the building was used as a barracks and artillery pieces were stationed in the churchyard. When the Continental Army and General Washington surprised the Hessians on December 26, 1776, much of the fighting of the First Battle of Trenton focused on St. Michael's churchyard.

Later in the war the building was used by the Continental Army as a hospital. The damage resulting from these uses was valued at 173 pounds, 4 shillings, necessitating repairs when services were resumed in 1783.

In 1843 prominent Philadelphia architect Thomas Ustick Walter developed preliminary plans for a major expansion of St. Michael's Church. A water color elevation and a floor plan, both dated 1843, survive in private collections, but these plans were never implemented (Letter from Robert B. Ennis, biographer of Walter, 3/25/1981). Walter did, however, supervise the erection of long-removed galleries and repainting of the church (St. Michael's Vestry Minutes. December 5, 1843).

The new church extension and facade was finally constructed in 1851 according to the plans of local carpenter Augustine M. Van Kirk. The design is a rare manifestation of the Gothic Revival in a castellated mode. The facade features polygonal towers and squarish pavilions with crenellated parapets, linked by screen-like walls, and is reminiscent of

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Godfrey, Dr. Carlos E. St. Michael's Church, Trenton, New Jersey: 1704-1920.
 Manuscript. 1920. (Trentoniana Division, Trenton Free Public Library.)

Schuyler, Hamilton. A History of St. Michael's Church. Princeton: Princeton
 University Press. 1926.

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .515 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Trenton West, PA-NJ

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 519960 4452340

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Property consists of lots 40 and 41 of Block 4. North Warren Street borders to the west, Perry Street and the property line to the north, and the property line to east and south.

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

Revisions by Terry Karschner, Office of Cultural and Environmental Services

NAME / TITLE

Martin H. Aurand, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Department of Housing and Development

DATE

10/30/1980

STREET & NUMBER

10 Capitol Street

TELEPHONE

(609) 989-3581

CITY OR TOWN

Trenton

STATE

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.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Laura Schmitt

TITLE

DATE 7/17/81

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Entered in the
 National Register

DATE

4/29/82

John Pelton Byers
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Trenton

CONTINUATION SHEET Mercer County, NJ ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The apse is five-sided with three pointed-arch windows. A sacristy and passageway lie north and east of the apse and connect to the gabled parish house. The two story parish house has small lancet windows and a gabled entrance pavilion with wood shingled gabled end.

The double doors lead into the interior through vestibules which flank the nave. The rear of the nave is spanned by a tall arch resting on elaborately carved stoned corbels. The interior is based on the center aisle plan. Walls have simple wood wainscoting; windows are recessed. The roof is spanned by shallow three-staged wood arches. At the crossing of nave and transept, two broad arches of this type intersect. The resulting quadrants of the ceiling are bisected by wide moldings with trefoil and quatrefoil cutouts.

The transept is supported in similar fashion with arches resting on piers corbeled out from the walls. A gallery at the rear of the transept has a balustrade with foliated panels and contains ranks of organ pipes.

A raised chancel platform occupies the east end of the church, in front of, and passing through, a tall pointed arch with projecting plaster decoration which frames the apse. The apse has wainscoting with foliated panels, and ribs which divide the ceiling into three sections which correspond with the three windows of the apse on which the interior focuses.

The floor is mosaic tile; the pews are low with barriers bisecting each section. All furniture is dark wood. The walls are pinkish and the ceiling now painted white.

In one of its pre-1871 manifestations, the interior had an elaborate system of clustered columns of a traceried ceiling. There have been a number of schemes of stenciled painted decoration of which nothing remains.

Renowned architect Thomas U. Walter supervised the painting of the church and construction of galleries in 1843. In 1871 major alterations carried out under the direction of Philadelphia architect George T. Pearson

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St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Trenton

CONTINUATION SHEET Mercer County, NJ ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

eradicated Walter's work and resulted in the addition of a transept to the north and a polygonal apse to the east in Decorated English Gothic style. This work basically established the building's present character. The interior includes a very distinctive arrangement of two massive shallow arches which intersect at the crossing. In 1906 superficial renovations included the installation of a Tiffany stained glass window. Additional windows including C.E. Kempe stained glass were installed between 1916 and 1928. The parish house, including a chapel, was constructed in 1892. A free standing church bell tower, shown in a 1860's drawing of St. Michael's, was demolished when the parish house was built.

There is a churchyard/cemetery on both sides of the church with simple grave stones, obelisks, and prone tablets. An obelisk and a tablet on the north side are each surrounded by iron fencing. A number of stones and plaques are set into the walls of the church. The entire property, including an openspace lot to the north, is enclosed by wrought iron fencing. The cemetery includes graves dating from the mid-18th century. David Brearley, signer of the U.S. Constitution is buried here, as is the infant daughter of Joseph Bonaparte, and Joseph Wood, Trenton mayor from 1856-1859.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Trenton
CONTINUATION SHEET Mercer County, NJ ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

the castellated designs of architects such as William Strickland and Walter. Buttresses and pointed-arch windows are further standard Gothic Revival features found on the facade. The general demeanor, however, is quite plain and squat. It is mid century Gothic Revival in its tentative use of the appropriate vocabulary without the "proper" ecclesiastical Gothic massing and detailing. Although Van Kirk's completed work has little in common with Walter's proposed design for St. Michael's, the center section is similar to Walter's 1850 plan for the Central Universalist Church in Philadelphia (Ennis letter, 3/25/81).

St. Michael's facade reveals a medieval castellated character without aspiring to the more fashionable and correct Gothic exemplified by contemporary structures such as Trinity Church, New York.

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St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Trenton

CONTINUATION SHEET Mercer County, NJ ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY (Continued)

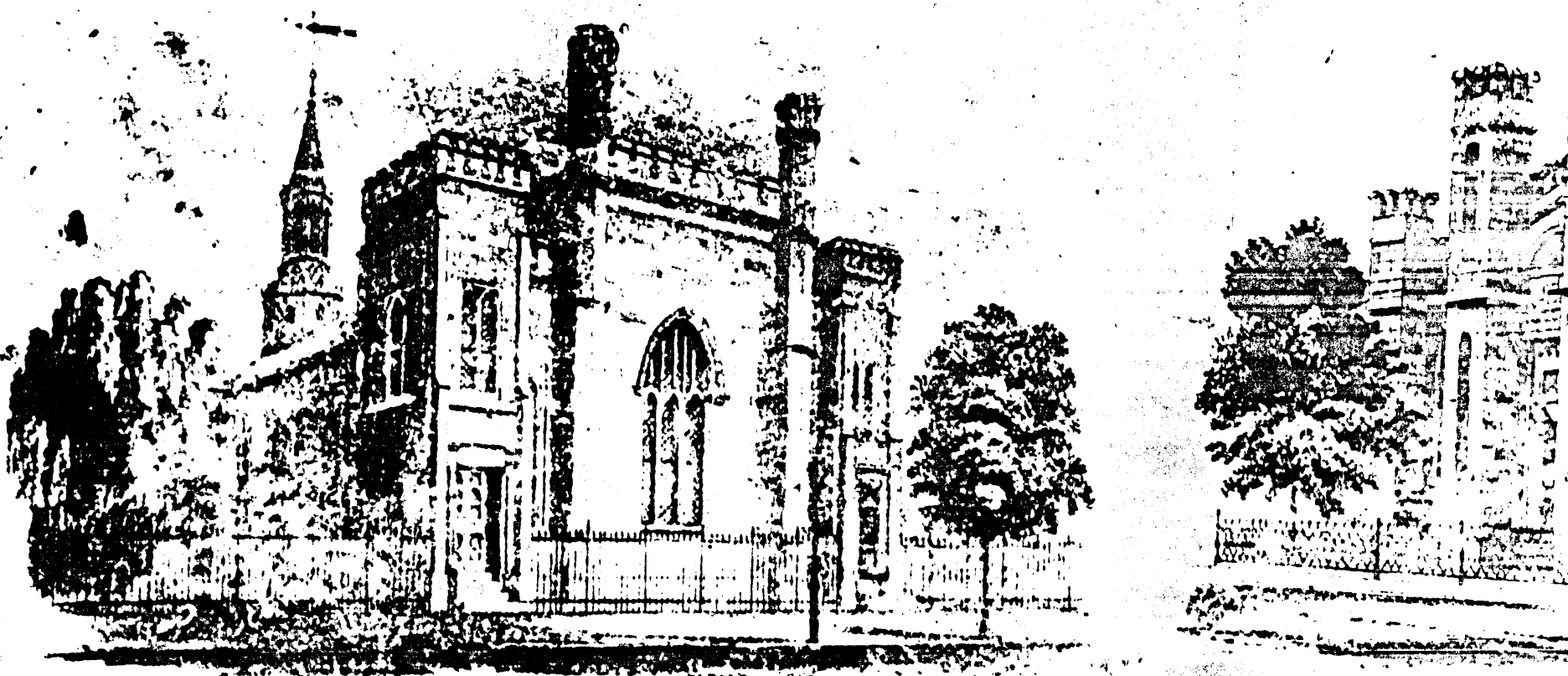
St. Michael's Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes. Trenton, New Jersey.

Letter from Robert B. Ennis, The Athenaeum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
March 25, 1981. Ennis is the biographer of Thomas Ustick Walter.

"Design for a New Front to St. Michael's Church, Trenton." Water color
elevation, 1843 (private collection).

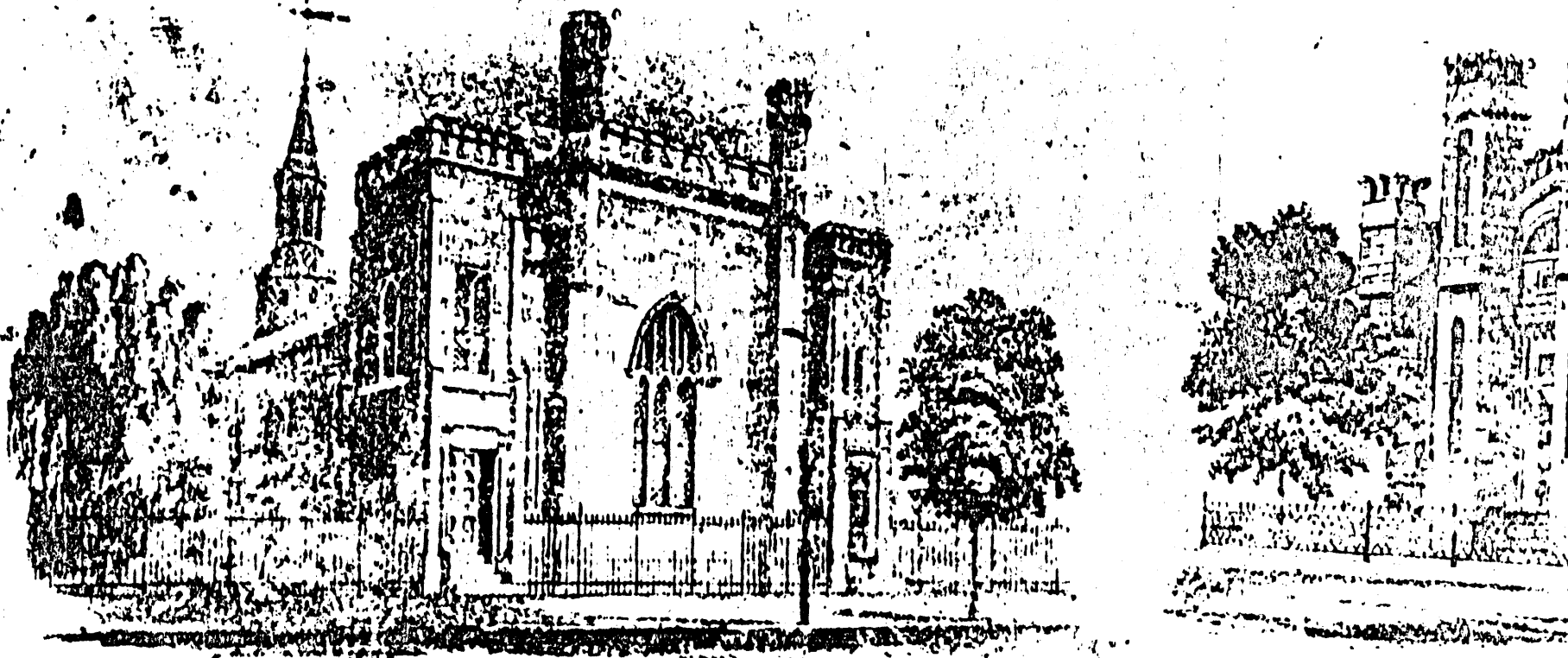
Floor Plan, May 9, 1843 (private collection). Untitled, but this plan
tallies with the front elevation of St. Michael's.

The Mercantile Building at Liverpool



St. Michael's Episcopal Church

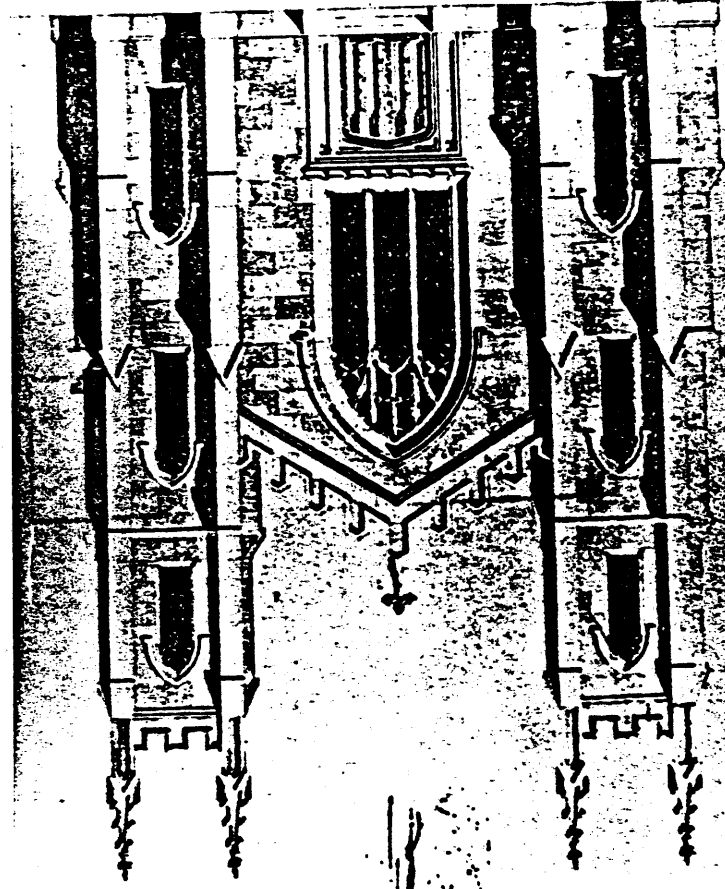
The Mercantile at Trenton



St. Michael's Episcopal Church

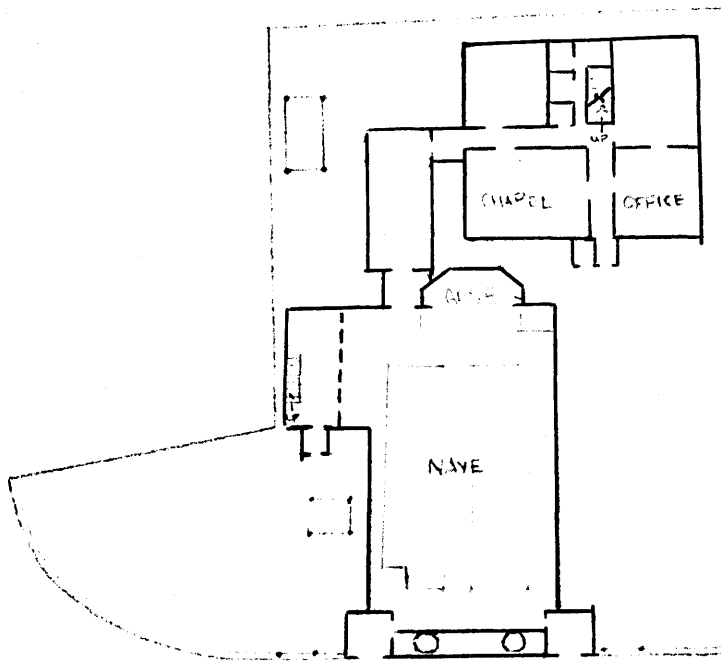
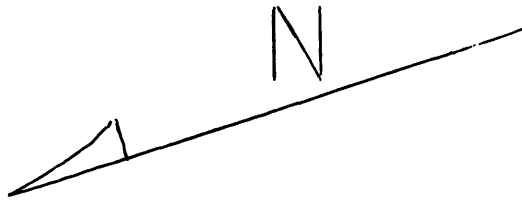
Map of the City of Trenton and part of Hamilton Township, Mercer County, New Jersey.
Robert H. Lemborn, Trenton, NJ [ca. 1860].

DESIGN FOR A NEW
 ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH
 FRONT TO
 CH. TRENTON



St. Michael's Episcopal Church
 Trenton, Mercer County, NJ
 Thomas U. Walters Proposed
 Plan for St. Michael's
 Reference: Water color
 elevation, 1843
 (Private collection)

Reference:
 Water color elevation, 1843 (Private collection)
 WALTER'S PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE CHURCH



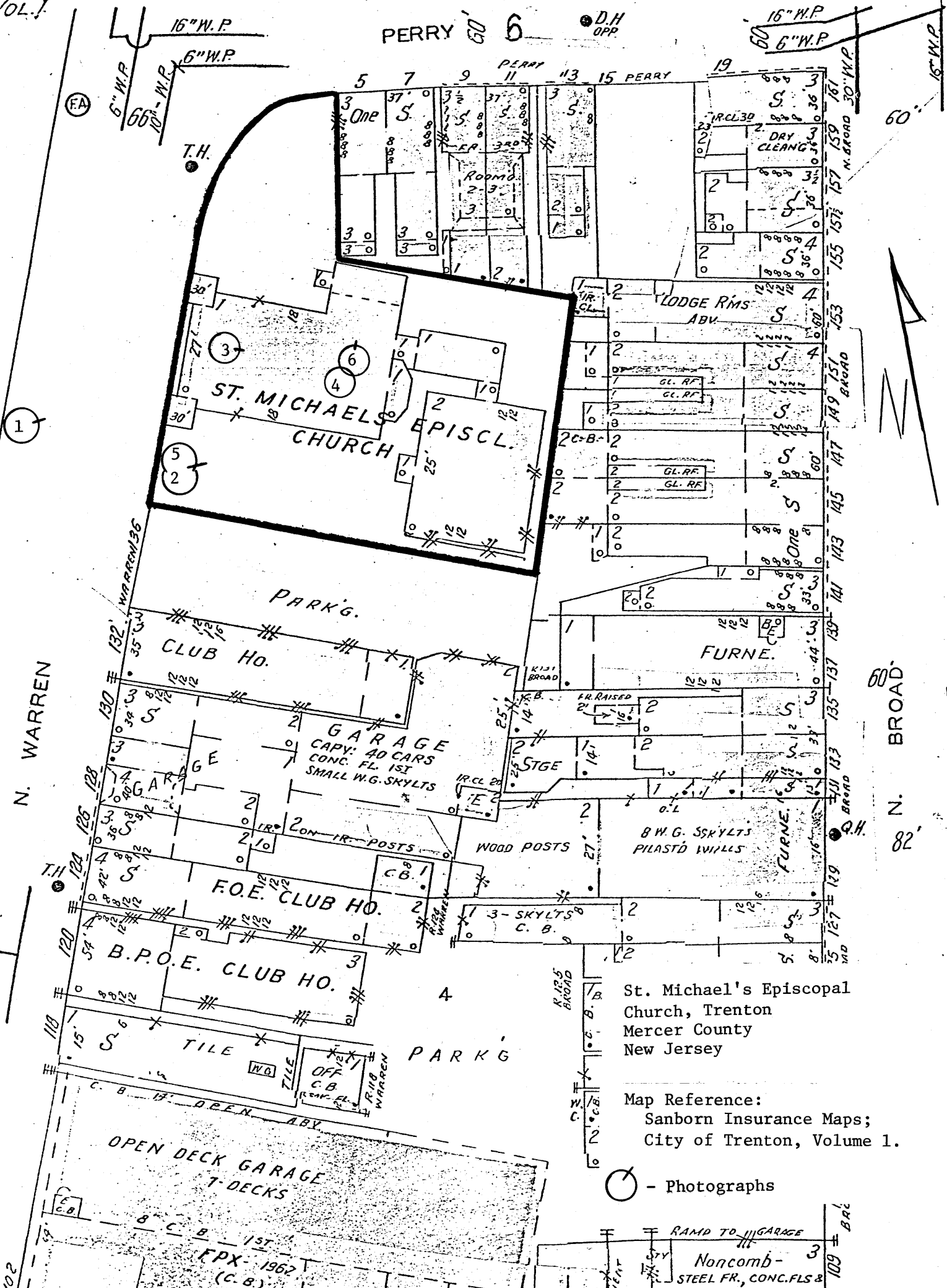
N. WARREN ST.



St. Michael's Episcopal Church
Trenton, Mercer Co., NJ

Sketch plan of church.
Not to scale.

- Martin Aurand 10-1980



St. Michael's Episcopal
 Church, Trenton
 Mercer County
 New Jersey

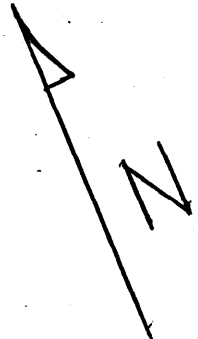
Map Reference:
 Sanborn Insurance Maps;
 City of Trenton, Volume 1.

⊙ - Photographs



ANK ST.

SHEET NO. 33



St. Michael's Episcopal Church
Trenton
Mercer County
New Jersey

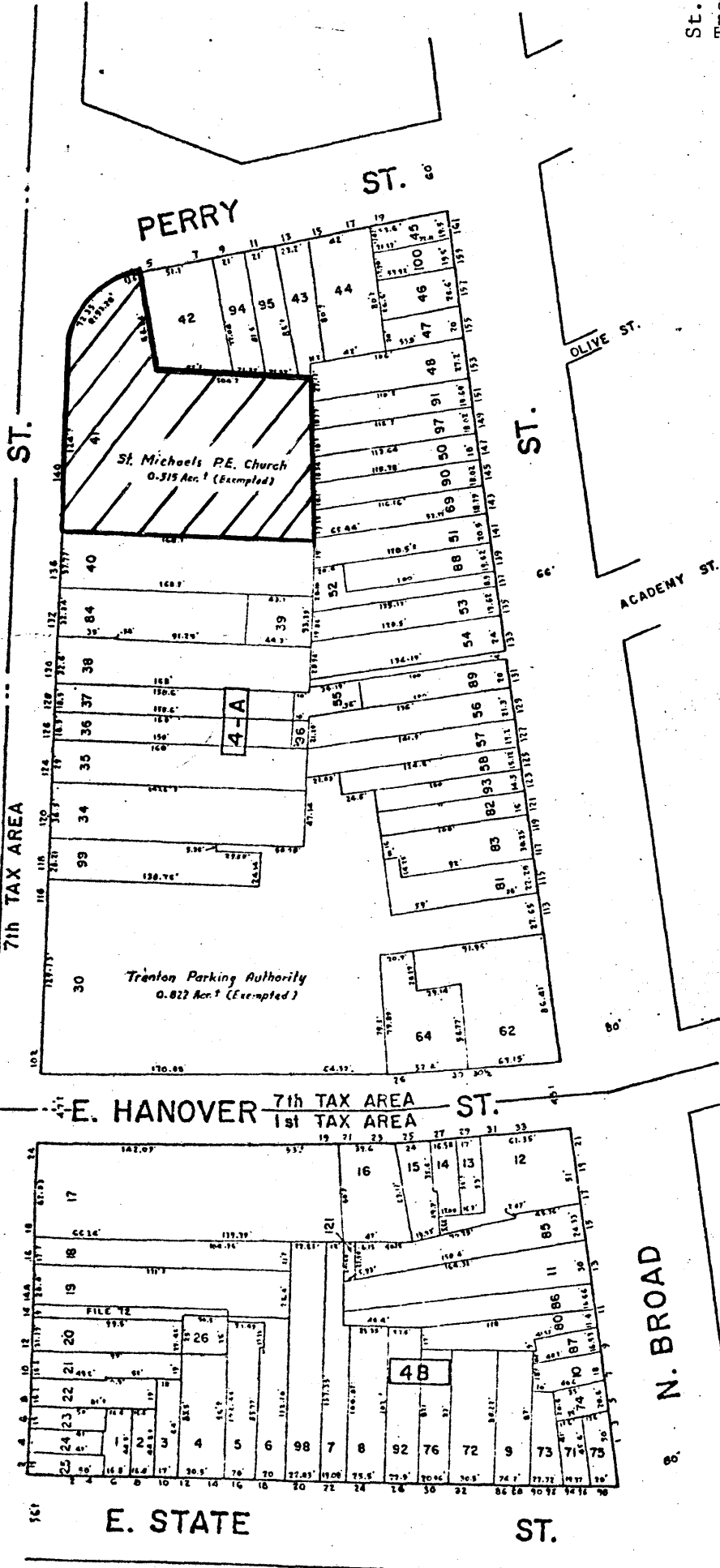
TAX MAP
CITY OF TRENTON
MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
SCALE 1" = 50'
MAY '66
JOSEPH R. WALSH
Chief Engineer

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
DIVISION OF TAXATION
PUBLIC UTILITY TAX BUREAU
APPROVED AS A TAX MAP SUBJECT TO THE
PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC LAW 86-207, ETC.
FOR THE DISTRICT OF JERSEY
BY *J.R. Walsh*
DATE: JUL 10 1967 SERIAL NO. 4576

1st & 7th TAX AREA SHEET NO. 4

ST.

2nd TAX AREA
7th TAX AREA



SHEET NO. 5

N. WARREN

N. BROAD

E. STATE

ST.

SHEET NO. 1