

996

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUN 29 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Blackwood Historic District

other names/site number Blackwoodtown

2. Location Portions of Black Horse Pike, Church St., Central Ave.,

street & number Baptist Lane, Elm St., & E. Railroad Ave.

n/a not for publication

city, town Gloucester Township

n/a vicinity

state New Jersey

code 034

county Camden

code 007

zip code 08012

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

87

17 buildings

3

0 sites

3

0 structures

0

0 objects

93

17 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously

listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet

Signature of certifying official

Allen J. Seuser

Date

6/20/89

Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Allen J. Seuser

Date of Action

7/27/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

CommerceDomestic

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

CommerceDomestic

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Greek RevivalQueen AnneOther

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stonewalls brickaluminumroof asphaltother _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Blackwood Historic District comprises the core of the crossroads village formed by the intersection of Black Horse Pike and Church Street in Blackwood, which is located in the central portion of Gloucester Township, Camden County. The district is generally oriented north-south along Black Horse Pike and east-west along Church Street. Within the boundaries, the district contains 110 buildings, sites, objects, and structures, 93 or 84.5% of which are contributing.

The district is characterized by the extant commercial core along the Black Horse Pike, by church and residence along Church Street, and by residence in the village's earliest suburban tract along Central Avenue which is bounded on the west by the former railroad to Camden. Representing a range of construction dates from the Federal period through the 1920s the buildings are typically two stories in height and built of frame except for the commercial core where brick is the predominant material. While there are survivors from the 1780-1830 period, the standing structures primarily reflect construction from the mid-nineteenth through early twentieth centuries.

The commercial row along the Black Horse Pike marks the ongoing evolution of Blackwood as a commercial center. As would be expected with generations of improvements, many of the mid-nineteenth-century structures have been replaced with twentieth-century buildings. Forming the crossroads at the principal intersection of the village (Black Horse Pike and Church Street) are the Presbyterian Church Cemetery (NE corner), the 1926 row of ten brick commercial stores (NW corner), a gas station on the site of a former store (SW corner) and the 1911 First National Bank of Blackwood (SE corner).

That Georgian Revival-style bank, constructed of brick and clad with rock-faced granite was designed by Philadelphia architect H.L. Reinhold. Accompanying Reinhold's First National Bank of Blackwood was the Neo-classical-style South Jersey Bank of Blackwood at 100-08 S. Black Horse Pike, designed by Thomas Stephen in 1923. Constructed of brick with an adjacent store and apartment, this building anchors the south end of the district. Interspersed between this 1920s bank and the intersection with Church Street are other examples of Blackwood's twentieth-century development: a circa 1930 Colonial Revival brick commercial building (10-20 S. Black Horse Pike) and the Mission-style stuccoed theatre built in 1921 (32-34 S. Black Horse Pike). Landmarks of the mid-nineteenth-century Black Horse Pike remain on the east side of the street. These include a 3-story Greek Revival frame farmhouse with more recent outbuildings (9-11 S. Black Horse Pike) and the "Blackwood Academy," an Italianate-style 3-story brick building.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) n/a A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Other: suburbanization

Period of Significance

1830-1930

Significant Dates

1831

c. 1850

1891

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Various

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Through its streets lined with dwellings, churches, schools, and commercial buildings, the Blackwood Historic District conveys the rich heritage of the oldest and largest village in Gloucester Township. Settled in the eighteenth century, Blackwood, or Blackwoodtown as it was called, thrived as a crossroads village along the Black Horse Pike well into the nineteenth century, becoming an important local government and transportation center by the 1830s. Subsequently, the advent of the railroad in 1891 ushered in a new era of development. First as summer homes and then as year-round residences, this village followed a pattern of residential growth that is representative of a broader trend, namely, the late nineteenth and early twentieth-century suburbanization of Camden County. The district's association with an early settlement in Gloucester Township, its survival as the most important such example in the township, and its contribution towards a better understanding of settlement patterns in the county make the district eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.

Gloucester, one of the southern townships in Camden County, has provided essential transportation routes between the Delaware River and the Atlantic Coast since its early period of settlement. Eventually improved as turnpikes, the Camden and White Horse transversed the township's northwestern part; the Camden and Blackwood, which connected with the Williamstown turnpike at Blackwood, crossed through the southwestern part. This location along the major turnpikes was to make Blackwood an early stopover for travelers while its proximity to the south branch of the Great Timber Creek and Blackwood Lake permitted Blackwood to develop into an industrial site by the first quarter of the eighteenth century. In 1701 George Ward purchased approximately 250 acres of land on the south side of Timber Creek in what was known as Upton, the early settlers' name for the land on both sides of the creek from Runnemedede to Greenloch. Ward built a fulling mill, gristmill, and residence, his mills being assessed the highest of any others in what was Gloucester County at that time. While George Ward undertook industrial pursuits, his brother, William, purchased a tract of land at the northwest corner of Church Street and Black Horse Pike in 1696 and opened the first tavern in the village.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): n/a

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data: n/a

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 42 acres Runnemedede, NJ Quad

UTM References

A

1	8	4	9	4	1	8	0	4	4	0	5	5	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	8	4	9	5	7	1	0	4	4	0	5	3	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	8	4	9	5	3	5	0	4	4	0	5	6	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	8	4	9	5	9	8	0	4	4	0	5	2	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See 1" = 200' scale map

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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Camden County, New Jersey

As befits Church Street, three mid-nineteenth-century churches dominate its streetscape. On E. Church Street, the Presbyterian Church and Cemetery are situated near the intersection of Black Horse Pike. Built in 1848, the 2-story, 3-register brick Greek Revival church is stuccoed and fronted by a mid-twentieth-century addition. Its manse at 21 E. Church Street is also Greek Revival in style and stuccoed. Further to the east is the Blackwood First Methodist Episcopal Church, burial ground, and parsonage. Builders Edward H. Jones and George W. Morad, erected the transitional Greek Revival/Italianate style church in 1856; the parsonage, erected shortly after the church, is in the late Greek Revival style. The Baptist Church at 133 W. Church Street stands at the western terminus of the district. This frame mid-nineteenth-century church is also Greek Revival in style and crowned by a steeple. Across the street from the Baptist Church is its burial ground entered through cast iron Victorian gates. Extending along the west side of the Baptist Church is Baptist Lane, which contains two mid-nineteenth century vernacular dwellings on land which was owned in the 1840's by Jonas Livermore, the same individual who donated the Baptist Church its property in 1847.

Scattered between the churches of Church Street is a collection of dwellings representing various periods, styles, and forms. While single family houses are the norm, double houses spanning a century of construction dates are present at 103-05 W. Church (c.1820), 35-37 W. Church (c.1855), 26-28 E. Church (c.1900), and 115-17 E. Church (c.1920). The c.1820 double house, among the oldest in the district, is a late Federal-style building. Also contributing to the streetscape's eclecticism are various vernacular mid-nineteenth-century frame dwellings (22-24, 25, and 102 E. Church, 36 and 122 W. Church), turn-of-the-century gabled cottages (10 and 104 E. Church, 21 W. Church), Queen Anne houses (149 E. Church Street of particular note), and twentieth-century styles including the bungalow (24 and 102 W. Church) and Colonial Revival (109 E. Church). Two other buildings of interest along Church Street are the Blackwood Grange (43 W. Church), built in 1909 by contractor John L. Shone and altered in the mid-twentieth century, and the altered, but extant Blackwood Public School (approximately 121-23 E. Church), built in 1903 by architect Isaac Pursell.

Central Avenue displays the most homogenous mix of buildings in the district. Subdivided by James T. Pine into 50-foot-wide lots in 1892, Central Avenue is lined with builder-designed frame dwellings erected in the 1890s and early 1900s. While most reflect typical interpretations of the gabled cottage, others recall popular domestic styles of the period such as the Queen Anne (101, 105, 129, 130, and 141), the Shingle Style (131) and the American Four Square Colonial (139, 145, and 155). Within this block, evidence of identical cottages suggests that some builders erected more than one dwelling (100, 106, and 140; 110 and 124).

The buildings in the Blackwood Historic District have undergone various alterations throughout the years, the most common being the application of modern siding. Despite this and other modifications, the forms, scale, and styles are of sufficient integrity to convey the ongoing evolution and historic character of Blackwood.

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Section number 7 Page 3 Blackwood Historic District, Gloucester Township,
Camden County, New Jersey

N. BLACK HORSE PIKE

2-20

Built 1926. Row of 2-story, 1-register red brick commercial/residential buildings. Transomed shopfronts with two bulk windows flanking central shop entrance. A side entrance leads to the second floor apartment. Both doors have prism glass transoms. The shop cornice is of pressed metal with pantile pent eave. The second floors have tripartite windows in wood frames with 9/9 double hung sash and brick soldier course lintels. The buildings are topped by pressed metal cornices. Most of the shopfronts have been altered. The corner shopfront has a beveled corner entrance. - *Contributing*.

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Blackwood Historic District, Gloucester Township,
Camden County, New Jersey

S. BLACK HORSE PIKE

S.W. Corner of Church Street

c.1980. 1-story brick clad gas station. - *Non-contributing*.

10-20

c.1930. 2-story, 6-bay Colonial Revival commercial building. First floor contains three shopfronts with large plate glass shop windows, recessed center entrances, prism glass transoms and brick soldier course surrounds. Flanking the center shopfront are two slightly recessed bays containing arched entrance on the first floor and 6/1 double hung sash on the second. The remaining second floor sash are two 6/1. Brick stringcourses adorn the facade at the second floor lintel and sill levels. A pressed metal modillioned cornice topped by a brick parapet crowns the structure. - *Contributing*.

22-30

Vacant lot.

32-34 - "Blackwood Theatre"

Built 1921. 2-story, Mission-style movie theatre with a side addition. Masonry faced with stucco. The southern (main) section is two stories with gabled front; the ground floor contains the theatre entrance. Two pairs of double leaf doors flank a center ticket booth. The second floor is dominated by a large blind arch with molded surround and stuccoed quoins. A painted terra-cotta finial tops the gable. To the north is a 2-story addition with two glass block windows on the first floor. There are three bays on the second floor; the center paired 3/3 double hung sash is flanked by two single 3/3 sash. A pressed metal pantile roof tops the building and a Mission-style chimney rises from the northeast corner. - *Contributing*.

36

c.1895. 2-story, 3-register gabled cottage. Altered to commercial mid-20th century. Brick facade ground floor, vinyl shake mansard second floor. - *Non-contributing*.

38-40 - N.W. Corner Central Avenue

Mid-20th century 1-story, 3-register modern brick commercial building. - *Non-contributing*.

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Blackwood Historic District, Gloucester Township,
Camden County, New Jersey

S. BLACK HORSE PIKE

100-08 - S.W. Corner Central Avenue - "South Jersey Bank"

Built 1923 by architect Thomas Stephen. 1-story, 3-register Neo-classical bank with a 2-story, 4-register store and apartment building to the south along Black Horse Pike. The bank building is brick with 1/1 double hung sash, pressed metal spandrels and transoms and cast stone lintels and sills. The entrance has been infilled with modern wood siding and a double leaf Colonial-styled door. The doorway is topped by a flat, cast stone lintel. The cornice is of cast stone with brackets and modillions; it is topped by a brick parapet. The 4-register store and apartment building contains two modern shopfronts at the first floor. The second floor sash are 8/1 double hung. Cornice is missing. - *Contributing*.

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Blackwood Historic District, Gloucester Township,
Camden County, New Jersey

S. BLACK HORSE PIKE

1-3 - "First National Bank"

Built 1911 by architect H.L. Reinhold and builder John L. Shone. Georgian Revival-style 1-story bank, rock-faced granite trimmed with cast stone, central advanced pavilion. Stone pilasters frame modern entrance, center crowned by pediment. Side round-arched windows, 1/1 double hung, cast stone keystone. 4-register side elevation, same fenestration as front. Modillioned wood cornice. Mid-20th-century grey brick addition to south. - *Contributing*.

5-7

c.1920. 2-story, tan brick Colonial Revival commercial/office building. First floor colonialized with two glazed and paneled entrances, picture window, and shake shingled pent. Second floor group of four 6/1 double hung windows, brick jack-arch lintel, brick sill; decorative spandrel to the side. Molded cornice, parapet above. Modern brick and stuccoed 2-story addition to the south. - *Contributing*.

9-11

c.1850. 3-story Greek Revival house, frame resided with aluminum. Original transomed central entrance. Modern 1-story permastone commercial addition to front of 9; enclosed 1920s porch on 11. Windows single and paired 1/1 double hung, single lights at third floor. Molded wood cornice with partial returns. Interior end chimney along south elevation. 2-story and 1-story rear wings. Outbuildings include: 1920s garage and late 19th-century shed. - *Contributing*.

13-25

Vacant.

27 - "Blackwood Academy"

c.1845. 3-story, 3-register Italianate brick building. Side hall entrance, 6-paneled door, sidelights, fanlights (filled in). Modern bracketed doorhood and pent across this building and 2-story modern brick addition to south. Modern 1/1 double hung windows. Two brick belt courses at third floor. Flat roof, double bracketed wood cornice. First floor polygonal bay on north elevation. - *Contributing*.

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Section number 7 Page 7 Blackwood Historic District, Gloucester Township,
Camden County, New Jersey

E. CHURCH STREET

10

c.1900. 2-story, 2-register gabled cottage. Wrap around wood porch with Doric columns. Clapboard siding and 3-light window in gable. - *Contributing*.

12-14

1-story modern commercial building with two storefronts. - *Non-contributing*.

16

c.1850. Altered mid-20th century. 2-story, 3-register brick gabled cottage. Second floor clad with aluminum siding. - *Contributing*.

22-24

c.1850. 2 1/2-story, 3-register house converted to two residences. First floor wood porch with chamfered posts and bracketed cornice. Half the porch (22) glazed in early to mid-20th century. Gabled roof with two pedimented dormers. House clad with asbestos shingles mid-20th century. - *Contributing*.

26-28

c.1900. 2 1/2-story, 2-register cross-gabled double house. Wrap around porches with Doric columns and turned wood balusters. 3-sided, 2-story bays on side elevations. Clad with asbestos shingles mid-20th century. - *Contributing*.

102

c.1850. 3-story, 3-register house. Wrap around front porch with chamfered posts, ornately carved wood spandrels and brackets. Clad with asbestos siding mid-20th century. - *Contributing*.

104

c.1900. Gabled cottage. Front porch with modern wrought iron rails and posts. Gothic sash in gable. Clad with aluminum siding mid-20th century. - *Contributing*.

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Blackwood Historic District, Gloucester Township,
Camden County New Jersey

E. CHURCH STREET

17 - "First Presbyterian Church of Blackwood"

Built 1848. 2-story, 3-register stuccoed Greek Revival church, nine registers deep with a 1-story, 3-register Colonial Revival front addition built mid-20th century. The backbuilding has a 1-story cross-gabled entryway with two arch-head ogee windows, 4-panel door with dog-eared lintels and stained glass transom. The front addition has a pedimented entryway with brick quoins, a large double leaf door topped by an arched fanlight transom. Doric pilasters divide the five registers along the side elevations. An octagonal steeple adorns the south end of the building. Iron fence around cemetery built 1900. - *Contributing*.

21 - "Presbyterian Church Manse"

Built 1855. 2-story, 3-register Greek Revival stuccoed house. Gabled roof with front pediment. Cornice altered with aluminum and Colonial Revival doorhood added mid-20th century. - *Contributing*.

23

c.1850. 1 1/2-story gabled outbuilding used as office. Clad with aluminum siding mid-20th century. - *Contributing*.

25

c.1850. 2-story, 2-register gabled house. 6/6 double hung sash and original shutters. Clad with aluminum siding mid-20th century. - *Contributing*.

35 - "Blackwood First Methodist Episcopal Parsonage"

c.1860. 2-story, 3-register late-Greek Revival parsonage. 6/6 double hung sash, front door has 4-light transom and 3-light sidelights. Gable windows have a latticed sash. Colonial Revival doorhood and asbestos siding added mid-20th century. - *Contributing*.

"Blackwood First Methodist Episcopal Church and Burial Ground"

Cast iron fence around burial ground. Church built 1856 by builders Edward H. Jones and George W. Morad. 2-story, Greek Revival/Italianate-style frame building, resided with aluminum. Pedimented front, divided into thirds by pilasters. Central bay marked by entrance of double panel doors and bracketed pediment. Single and double pointed leaded glass windows. Side elevation four registers deep. Modern 1-story brick addition to the rear. - *Contributing*.

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Blackwood Historic District, Gloucester Township,
Camden County, New Jersey

E. CHURCH STREET

55

Mid-20th century. 2-story aluminum sided and shake mansarded commercial building. -
Non-contributing.

59

Early 20th century. 2-story house on rusticated cast stone foundation. Significant
alterations of first floor, removal of porch, and side aluminum. - *Non-contributing.*

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Section number 7 Page 10 Blackwood Historic District, Gloucester Township,
Camden County, New Jersey

E. CHURCH STREET

109

c.1930. 1-story Colonial Revival cottage, stuccoed. Single, paired, and picture windows. Rusticated surrounds and jack-arch lintels. - *Contributing*.

115-117

c.1920. (Possibly early structure underneath significant 20th-century alterations.) 2-story double house, concrete foundation, frame resided with aluminum. Front porch, balustrade encased with aluminum. Paired windows at first floor, single above. Interior end chimneys, stuccoed. - *Contributing*.

Approximately 121-123 - "Blackwood Public School"

Built 1903 by architect Isaac Pursell and builder John L. Shone. Hip-roofed school, frame resided with aluminum. Central entrance with pedimented doorhood. Fenestration grouped in threes, sash altered. Central brick chimney. - *Non-contributing due to alterations*.

127-131

c.1870. (Possibly a former school, moved to this location from adjacent school property in 1905.) 2-story, 4-register frame double house, 127 resided with vinyl. 127 - porch with turned posts and gabled entry, 129 - pedimented portico with Doric columns. 1/1 double hung sash, thin entablature lintels. Box cornice, partial returns. - *Contributing*.

137

c.1920. 2-story, 3-register brick dwelling. Porch-fronted, battered columns on brick porch wall. Side entrance. 1/1 double hung sash, brick soldier course lintels. Molded wooden box cornice. - *Contributing*.

143

Modern 1-story tract house. - *Non-contributing*.

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Section number 7 Page 11 Blackwood Historic District, Gloucester Township,
Camden County, New Jersey

E. CHURCH STREET

149

c.1900. 2 1/2-story Queen Anne-style house. Wood clapboarding at first floor, butt shingles above. Wrap around porch, small Tuscan columns on orange pyrate brick piers, turned balustrade. Off-center entrance with leaded glass sidelight. Single and paired 1/1 double hung windows. Polygonal bay at second floor of main elevation and 2-story bay on east elevation. Two gabled dormers. Interior end chimney of orange pyrate brick. Carriage house - vertical board siding, butt shingles, two dormers with 6/6 double hung sash. - *Contributing*.

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Blackwood Historic District, Gloucester Township,
Camden County, New Jersey

W. CHURCH STREET

14 - S.W. Corner Elm Street

c.1880. 2-story gabled framed cottage. Altered mid-20th century with aluminum siding and Colonial Revival details. - *Contributing*.

22

1-story, 2-register modern commercial building. Brick and stucco facade. - *Non-contributing*.

24

c.1930. 1-story, 2-register Bungalow-style cottage. Steep gabled roof overhangs, recessed front porch. Aluminum sided mid-20th century. - *Contributing*.

30

1-story modern tract house, aluminum sided. - *Non-contributing*.

36

c.1830. 1 1/2-story, 2-register frame house. Standing seam metal roof with two gabled dormers. Altered mid-20th century with aluminum siding. - *Contributing*.

40 - "New Jersey Bell"

1-story, stone and brick modern office building. - *Non-contributing*.

44

1-story, 5-register modern office building. - *Non-contributing*

102

c.1920. 1 1/2-story Bungalow-style house. Deep overhanging eaves, recessed porch, steeply pitched roof with shed dormer. Clad with aluminum mid-20th century. - *Contributing*.

112

Mid-20th century, 1-story board and batten cottage. - *Non-contributing*.

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Section number 7 Page 13 Blackwood Historic District, Gloucester Township,
Camden County, New Jersey

W. CHURCH STREET

116

c.1900. 2-story Queen Anne house. Mirror image of 29 Railroad Avenue. Half of porch demolished, remainder enclosed for office use. Board and batten gambrel carriage house in rear. - *Contributing*.

122

c.1850. 3-story, 2-register frame house. Altered mid-20th century with several Colonial Revival additions and aluminum siding. - *Contributing*.

128

c.1930. 2-story, 3-register gabled frame cottage. Clad with aluminum siding mid-20th century. One story addition to east. - *Contributing*.

15

c.1930. 1 1/2-story, 4-register, brick Dutch Colonial Revival house. Recessed porch, stuccoed square columns. 1-story addition to east. - *Contributing*.

21

c.1890. 2 1/2-story, T-shaped gabled frame cottage. Bracketed wood front porch. Bracketed cornice. Altered with asbestos shingles mid-20th century. - *Contributing*.

27

First story built first quarter of 19th century, second story built third quarter of 19th century, roof built 1986. 2-story, 3-register frame cottage, c.1920 porch. Altered mid-20th century with aluminum siding. Maintains scale and openings of older building. - *Contributing*.

35-37

c.1855 2-story, 3-register frame twin houses. Both clad with aluminum mid-20th century. - *Contributing*.

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Camden County, New Jersey

W. CHURCH STREET

43 - "Blackwood Grange"

Built 1909 by John L. Shone for Blackwood Grange. Gable-fronted 2-story building, vinyl siding, modern windows and pent. - *Contributing*.

47

c.1870. 2-story, 4-register double house; frame, resided with aluminum. Porch-fronted, turned posts, decorative brackets. Primarily 2/2 double hung sash. Cornice panned with aluminum. - *Contributing*.

55

Early 20th century vernacular 2-story frame house resided with asphalt. Central entrance, first floor paired 1/1 double hung windows. Second floor single 1/1 double hung. Simple cornice. 1-story side addition. - *Contributing*.

N.W. Corner Harrison Avenue - "Harrison Arms"

c.1925. 2-story Colonial Revival apartment building, stucco over masonry. Gabled front, single and paired windows. Jack-arch lintels with keystones, all stuccoed. - *Contributing*.

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Section number 7 Page 15 Blackwood Historic District, Gloucester Township,
Camden County, New Jersey

W. CHURCH STREET

103-105

c.1820 late Federal-style double house, asbestos shingle over frame. Enclosed porch addition. 6/6 double hung sash at second floor. Molding below cornice. Interior end chimneys. - *Contributing*.

109

c.1920. 1 1/2-story shingled bungalow, later beaded matchboard under porch. Grouped windows and large picture window at first floor, tripartite casement and tilt windows in dormer. - *Contributing*.

St. Agnes School

Major mid-20th-century alterations and additions to any pre-existing building. Aluminum sided. Concrete additions to rear. - *Non-contributing*.

133 - "Baptist Church"

c.1850. Greek Revival church. Stuccoed foundation, aluminum siding over clapboarding above. Temple-fronted; pedimented portico, fluted Doric columns. Modern infill below. Double 4-panel entrance doors flanked by windows with 6/6 double hung sash. Four registers along side elevations. Steeple clad with metal. - *Contributing*.

141

c.1915. 2 1/2-story, 2-register hipped cottage. Frame, resided with aluminum. Enclosed front porch, central entrance. Windows 1/1 double hung. Eye-brow dormer, filled in with ventilator, on hipped roof. - *Contributing*

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Camden County, New Jersey

CENTRAL AVENUE

S.E. Corner Elm - "Blackwood Fire Company No. 1"

Modern fire station. - *Non-contributing.*

100

c.1900. 2 1/2-story, gabled frame cottage, same as 106 and 140 Central Avenue. Aluminum siding and Colonial Revival trim added mid-20th century. 3-sided bay on east elevation. - *Contributing.*

106

c.1900. 2 1/2-story gabled frame cottage, same as 100 and 140 Central Avenue. Queen Anne-style wood porch wraps around front of house. Asphalt sided mid-20th century. - *Contributing.*

110

c.1895. 2 1/2-story cross-gabled frame cottage, identical to 124 Central Avenue. Front porch with turned posts and balusters. 3-sided bay on east side. Gothic-arched window in gable, clad with aluminum siding and porch screened-in mid-20th century. - *Contributing.*

114

c.1900. 2-story gabled frame cottage. A-symmetrical gabled end faces the street. Mid-20th-century aluminum cladding and window alterations. - *Contributing.*

116-18

c.1895; 1900 alterations and additions. 2-story gabled frame double house. T-shaped with entrance along top of T. Porch with modern wrought iron posts and rails, wraps around front of building. Clad in aluminum siding mid-20th century. - *Contributing.*

124

c.1895. 2 1/2-story cross-gabled frame cottage. Identical to 110 Central Avenue. Clad in aluminum siding mid-20th century but still retains slate roof. - *Contributing.*

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Section number 7 Page 17 Blackwood Historic District, Gloucester Township,
Camden County, New Jersey

CENTRAL AVENUE

130

c.1910. 2-story, Queen Anne frame cottage. East half has an enclosed porch under a steeply pitched gable roof. To the west is a 1-register tower. Simple wooden brackets support a small balcony at the second floor and a broken pediment above the tower sash. The house was clad in asbestos shingles mid-20th century. - *Contributing*.

134

c.1910. 2 1/2-story gabled cottage. T-shaped. 2-story, 3-sided bay on east side. Gothic window in gabled end. Asbestos siding, wrought iron porch supports, and first floor addition added mid-20th century. - *Contributing*.

138

c.1930. 1 1/2-story bungalow, screened-in recessed front porch. 2-bay shed dormers on four sides of hipped roof. Clad in vinyl siding mid-late 20th century. - *Contributing*.

140

c.1900. 2 1/2-story gabled frame cottage, same as 100 and 106 Central Avenue. Clad in aluminum siding and front porch enclosed mid-20th century. - *Contributing*.

144

Mid-20th century. 1-story, 3-register modern cottage. Vertical vinyl siding. - *Non-contributing*.

152-54

c.1895. 2-story, 2-register frame double house. First floor front porches. Turned posts remain on 152. 154 - porch enclosed with aluminum siding and jalousie windows. Clad mid-20th century with asphalt (152) and aluminum (154) siding. - *Contributing*.

17-19

c.1920. 2 1/2-story double house, rusticated cast stone base, wood clapboarding, each unit with wrap around porch supported by Doric columns. Windows 1/1 double hung with thin entablature lintels. Hipped roof with exposed overhang, shed dormer. - *Contributing*.

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Camden County, New Jersey

CENTRAL AVENUE

101

c.1895. 2 1/2-story L-shaped Queen Anne-style cottage (same as 141.) Entrance into square turret with multi-light Queen Anne window. Frame construction, resided with asbestos, original fish-scale shingles in front and side gables. Windows 1/1 double hung, pointed at attic floor. Bracketed cornice. - *Contributing*.

105

c.1895. 2 1/2-story Queen Anne-style cottage. Exceptional integrity. Clapboarding at first and second floors; butt, fish-scale, and double-cove shingles in gable. Porch fronted, turned posts, milled brackets. Glazed and Eastlake-detailed door. Windows 2/2 double hung with thin entablature lintels. Double-pointed molding above attic window. 2 1/2-story paneled and shingled bay on east elevation. Frame barn with front garage addition. - *Contributing*.

109

c.1895. 2 1/2-story T-shaped gabled cottage. Side porch, turned posts; front porch enclosed. Stone foundation, frame house resided with vinyl. Modern 1/1 double hung windows. - *Contributing*.

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Camden County, New Jersey

CENTRAL AVENUE

125

c.1895. 2 1/2-story L-shaped gabled cottage. Stone foundation, frame house resided with asphalt. Original wrap around porch with turned posts and balustrade. Transomed entrances into front and rear of "L". Modern sash. Pointed window at attic. Bracketed overhang. - *Contributing*.

129

c.1895. 2 1/2-story Queen Anne-style cottage. Frame, resided with asphalt. Wrap around porch, chamfered posts, decorative brackets. Entrance into side. Street elevation has first floor polygonal bay and double-cove shingled wall dormer at cornice line. - *Contributing*.

131

c.1900. 2-story Shingle-style cottage. Clapboarded first floor resided with aluminum. Shingled second floor resingled with asphalt. Steep, low sweeping roof, encompassing enclosed front porch. Hipped dormer with tripartite window. Turret with octagonal roof with finial to side. Central chimney. - *Contributing*.

139

c.1915. 2 1/2-story, 2-register American Four Square Colonial house. Rusticated cast stone foundation. Clapboarding resided with vinyl. Modern entrance and pent. Dormers project from hipped roof. Modern 1/1 double hung windows and shutters. - *Contributing*.

141

c.1895. L-shaped Queen Anne-style gabled cottage. (Same as 101). Square turret in ell, roof altered. Original multi-light and paneled Queen Anne door and Queen Anne window. Clipped first floor corners beneath second floor overhang. Pointed windows at attic. - *Contributing*.

145

c.1915. 2 1/2-story American Four Square Colonial house. Rusticated cast stone foundation, clapboarding resided with aluminum. Screened-in porch with square Tuscan columns. 1/1 double hung. Tripartite windows at first floor, single 1/1 double hung at second floor, paired 3-light tilt sash in dormer of hipped roof. - *Contributing*.

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Camden County, New Jersey

CENTRAL AVENUE

151

c.1915. 2 1/2-story gabled cottage. Rusticated cast stone foundation. Frame building, resided with aluminum at first floor, asbestos shingles above. Screened-in porch with square Tuscan columns and balustrade. Side entrance, first floor tripartite 6/1 double hung windows. Second floor single 6/1 double hung. Paired window in attic. Simple overhang, panned with aluminum. - *Contributing*.

155

c.1915. 2 1/2-story American Four Square Colonial house. Rusticated cast stone foundation, clapboarding resided with aluminum. Partial screened-in porch. Two entrances into main facade. 1/1 double hung windows at second floor. Hipped roof, dormer with paired 3-light tilt windows. - *Contributing*.

159 - N.E. Corner Railroad Avenue

c.1895. 2 1/2-story, 3-register, gabled frame cottage. Altered mid-20th century, asphalt siding, main entrance altered to Railroad Avenue, plywood doorhood. - *Contributing*.

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Camden County, New Jersey

E. RAILROAD AVENUE

S.E. Corner Church Street and E. Railroad Avenue, "Baptist Cemetery"

Cemetery, with cast iron Victorian gates. - *Contributing.*

29

c.1900. 2 1/2-story frame Queen Anne house. Wrap around front porch with wood posts. Polygonal 2-story turret with conical roof topped by wrought iron finial in the southwest corner. Southeast corner, gable end with broken pediment and Gothic sash. House sided with asbestos shingles mid-20th century. - *Contributing.*

113

c.1905. 2-story aluminum sided frame house. Stuccoed stone foundation; enclosed front porch with rusticated cast stone foundation. Glazed door with sidelights, 2/2 double hung sash. Simple overhang. Side 1-story addition. - *Contributing.*

125

c.1915. 2-story, T-shaped frame house. Stuccoed concrete foundation, original clapboarding. Front sun porch with glazed door. Windows 1/1 and 2/2 double hung. Gabled front. - *Contributing.*

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Blackwood Historic District, Gloucester Township,
Camden County, New Jersey

BAPTIST LANE

13

c.1850. 2-story stucco over masonry house with addition. 20th-century porch, entrance and sidelight. Older section 6/1 double hung; addition tripartite and paired windows. Exterior end chimney on south elevation. - *Contributing*.

21

c.1850. 2-story, 2-register vernacular frame dwelling, resided with vinyl. Modern porch. Side entrance, 6/6 double hung sash. 2-story rear wing and 1-story rear shed addition. - *Contributing*.

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Camden County, New Jersey

S. ELM STREET

22

Mid-20th-century, 1-story brick tract house. - *Non-contributing*.

28

Mid-20th-century, concrete masonry block garage with stepped parapet. - *Non-contributing*.

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Section number 8 Page 2 Blackwood Historic District, Gloucester Township,
Camden County, New Jersey

In 1731 John Blackwood, Sr. of Scotland purchased the tavern and ten years later acquired 95 acres of the mill property -- although not the mills -- from George Ward. Adding to his holdings, Blackwood purchased 100 acres in the early 1750s which included what became the site of the village, and provided one acre of land across from his tavern for the Presbyterian Church. By the early nineteenth century, the sparsely settled village was comprised of the mills, mill housing near Church Street and Railroad Avenue, a tavern, and a Presbyterian Church. A Methodist congregation became active circa 1801 and by 1834 erected a frame meeting house at 115-117 E. Church Street. Blackwoodtown, slowly growing, became the township seat of government in 1831, the same year in which Uriah Norcross started a daily stagecoach route between Camden and Cape May with headquarters in Blackwood. Shortly thereafter, a second stagecoach line was established between the village and Camden.

The next few decades witnessed a period of growth which in part, likely resulted from the substantial improvements to the Williamstown and Camden Turnpike and the Camden and Blackwood Turnpike around 1850. The village's growth is evidenced by the 1860 atlas which depicts numerous residences including nine 1 1/2-story speculative houses erected in 1857 by James Tomlinson on W. Church Street (35 and 37).¹ Relatively new Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist churches and parsonages graced Church Street and a hotel and post office (the former tavern) operated at the northwest corner of Church Street and Black Horse Pike while a store occupied the southwest corner. Also lining the crossroads were a carriagemaker, tailor, blacksmith, cabinetmaker, shoemaker, saddler, milliner, restaurant, and various other stores that clearly formed the mid-nineteenth-century commercial core. The village also boasted a schoolhouse on E. Church Street and the Blackwood Academy, a fine private institution at 27 S. Main Street (built in 1845 as a Temperance Hotel). In keeping with its commercial and residential growth, Blackwood developed a social infrastructure. Lodge 64 of the International Order of Odd Fellows was chartered in 1847 and in 1869, the Minerva Lodge No. 25 of the Knights of Pithias was founded. The Blackwood Grange at 43 W. Church Street (rebuilt in 1909) was started in 1875 and a local chapter of the Knights of Monin Castle was organized in 1883.

The year 1891 marks a significant date in the history of Blackwood as well as Gloucester Township. With the opening of the Gloucester Branch of the Pennsylvania and Reading Railroad, residents of what was essentially an agricultural/industrial community were afforded the opportunity to live in the country and commute to work in Gloucester City, Camden, or Philadelphia. Moreover, the advent of the railroad -- which replaced the stagecoach -- enticed people to settle in Blackwood just as it stimulated development in other Camden County communities such as Collingswood and Merchantville. Augmenting this development were promotional testaments that "the location is healthful and the surrounding charming in every respect."² And, the formation of building and loan associations and development companies provided the financial backing for new construction. Typical of numerous suburban communities in the second half of the nineteenth century, the initial appeal of Blackwood was as a summer resort. Of the 45

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Camden County, New Jersey

lots laid out by James T. Pine on Central Avenue, the purchasers "who contemplate erecting summer residences in the near future"³ were principally from the city. The logical progression in development, as evidenced by Blackwood, was the establishment of year-round residences from these summer cottages.

James T. Pine was responsible for the first major speculative development that emerged from the railroad era. Anticipating its inauguration, Pine assembled the tract of land extending primarily along Central Avenue and fronting the railroad in 1885. On June 2, 1892, he filed his plan of building lots with the county and shortly thereafter began his sale of lots. Among the earlier dwellings were those of Benjamin F. Batten, painter (105 Central Avenue) and Cornelius G. Hagerman, grocer (116-18 Central Avenue). By 1910, Pine's lots were sold and most were improved with dwellings for a middle class neighborhood comprised of a printer, stovemaker, hardware salesman, publisher, stenographer, bookkeeper, cashier, merchant, grocer, and engineer, just to name a few.⁴ In the meantime, towards the east end of the district, Daniel Hagans and his wife Mary erected their prominent Queen Anne-style house and carriage house at 149 E. Church Street circa 1900 and various development houses on the south side of the street, including 26-28 E. Church Street.

In keeping with the pace of residential development, which in the early twentieth century expanded into areas of Blackwood beyond the proposed district's limits, the commercial core changed as well. In 1911 the Georgian Revival-style bank building for the First National Bank of Blackwood was erected at the southeast corner of Black Horse Pike and Church Streets. That bank was designed by Philadelphia architect H.L. Reinhold who also designed the Mt. Holly Trust and Safety Deposit Company. First National, one of the only banks on the Black Horse Pike between Camden and Atlantic City, was later acquired by the Camden Trust Company in 1939. A reflection of Blackwood's commercial prosperity, a second bank, the South Jersey Bank of Blackwood, opened in 1923. That Neo-classical-style bank and its adjacent store and apartments were built according to plans designed by prominent Camden architect Thomas Stephen. In 1925, the same year in which major improvements were made to the Black Horse Pike, the old tavern at the northwest corner of Black Horse Pike and Church Streets was demolished for the Kelley Realty Co.'s 2-story brick commercial row. In addition to supporting a commercial corridor, the former crossroads village boasted a vaudeville and moving picture theater by 1921.

Although various demolition and new construction have altered the commercial and residential streetscapes of Blackwood in the second half of the twentieth century, a sufficient concentration of surviving resources continues to project a history unique within Gloucester Township. Unlike Blackwood, the other early villages of the township never attained a comparable commercial and/or residential center, certainly not one that had its roots in the late seventeenth century. Kirkwood, which supported various industries, attained its first regular store in 1870 while Lindenwald was not even founded until 1885. Clementon developed strong milling interests, but not the wealth of churches, stores, and

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Camden County, New Jersey

dwellings that formed Blackwood. Watsonstown, Brownstown, and Davistown never grew beyond small hamlets and Spring Mills, which had substantial industrial works, also remained a small entity. The Lost Town of Upton, listed in the National Register, documents only the remains of a former village while Chew's Landing, which once had a rich heritage, essentially declined when the railroad replaced its shipping interests.

As it stands, the Blackwood Historic District contains a collection of buildings and sites that documents the village's growth from an eighteenth-century respite to a twentieth-century commuter suburb, and conveys its ongoing activity as a commercial center. This assemblage also depicts a pattern of development that is representative of its era, yet unique for its level of preservation, particularly when viewed within the context of Gloucester Township. Because of its important historical associations, the landmarks of which reflect primarily 1830s to turn-of-the-century suburbanization, the Blackwood Historic District warrants listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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FOOTNOTES

1. Jim Viggiono, Research prepared for the Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission, 1986.
2. West Jersey Press, September 30, 1891. p.3.
3. West Jersey Press, July 6, 1892. p.3.
4. U.S. Census Records, 1910. National Archives, Philadelphia, PA.

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Blackwood Historic District, Gloucester Township,
Camden County, New Jersey

BLACKWOOD BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

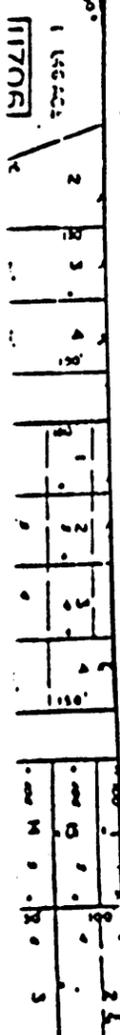
The Blackwood Historic District encompasses the commercial and residential core of the 18th and 19th-century village of Blackwood. The district, which extends roughly north-south along the Black Horse Pike, is terminated at the north where significantly altered buildings and modern construction mark a break from the contributing resources. Likewise, the southern boundary at Black Horse Pike delineates the concentration of historic commercial buildings from modern development. To the east, the boundary along E. Church Street marks the transition to modern housing. The district extends westward to Railroad Avenue, providing for the inclusion of early residences and the Baptist Church along W. Church Street and the 1890s-1910s suburban development along Central Avenue. Beyond this boundary to the west is an area of more modern residential development.



BLACKWOOD HISTORIC DISTRICT
CAMDEN COUNTY, NJ

-  C - CONTRIBUTING
-  NC - NON-CONTRIBUTING
-  V - VACANT
-  PHOTO INDEX

SCALE 1"=200'



BAPTIST CHURCH
EXEMPTED
ST. AGNES CHURCH

BLACK HORSE
(N.S. 168)

NEW JERSEY

(C.R. 534)

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