

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0680311

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 25 1978
DATE ENTERED	JAN 19 1979

**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 Richwood Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON First Methodist Church of Richwood

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Elmer Road

CITY, TOWN Richwood NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE New Jersey VICINITY OF COUNTY Gloucester CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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 Richwood Methodist Church

STREET & NUMBER Elmer Road

CITY, TOWN Richwood STATE New Jersey 08074

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clerk's Office, Gloucester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Broad Street

CITY, TOWN Woodbury STATE New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Architectural Survey of Harrison, South Harrison and Part of Elk Townships, Gloucester County, N.J.

DATE Summer, 1977 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Office of Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN Trenton STATE New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Methodist Church of Richwood is a small frame church measuring approximately 50 feet long by 36 feet wide. It has a center tower projecting from the front wall plane about 10 feet 6 inches square and a small chancel projecting from the back wall, now surrounded by a modern one story addition. There is a paneled double front door with a stained glass transom on the tower and a Gothic palladian window above. The second stage of the tower has an oculus and the third stage louvered palladian windows. Flanking the tower is a long stained glass window with ear moldings, and three of the same type are on each side of the church. A cornice with single brackets is continued around the front and back. A bracket cornice is also under the second stage of the tower. The exterior is now covered with aluminum siding, but the wooden decorative elements are all exposed and in good condition.

The interior of the tower has stick style elements including diagonal beaded planks. The doors have Greek Revival block moldings.

The interior has a very ornate plaster cornice with part of the decoration picked out in gold leaf. An ornate plaster medallion is in the center of the ceiling from which hangs an ornate gilded chandelier, probably contemporary with the building. Six wall sconces match the chandelier. There is a front lobby from which an enclosed stair ascends on the left to a gallery. The gallery has been enclosed with glass up to the ceiling, which in no way interferes with the cornice. The gallery may have been further altered in ways which are not easily detected. Two old metal ceiling lamps are attached to the ceiling beneath the gallery, one on each side of the entrance. All the window frames, chairrails and other interior woodwork are intact, but the walls have been covered with wooden insulating board.

The chancel area is framed by a classical entablature which rises almost to the ceiling and is enhanced with still more ornate plaster decoration. There is a stained glass window on either side of the projecting chancel area and a very low railing before it which appears to be original. There are five Gothic Revival stained oak chairs which appear to be contemporary with the building. A lectern and table in the same style seem later in date.

All the pews are new with the exception of one old one now kept in the gallery.

The parsonage stands a short distance to the north of the church and to the south is a tree bordered lane beyond which is the cemetery. The church is in excellent condition throughout.

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

1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This charming little structure is indeed a splendid example of a mid-19th century country church. Standing at the southern edge of the village of Richwood next to its old cemetery and clearly visible from a wide area, it makes a beautiful landmark in the rather flat and prosaic cultural landscape of this farming community.

In style it is country Victorian with a scattering of Greek and Gothic details incorporated in an original, if naive manner. The well proportioned interior, with its original ornate plaster decoration, is one of the finest things of its kind in the area, a pleasant surprise for anyone who has not yet seen it. While there are modern coverings both on the exterior and interior, they have been placed with the utmost intelligence and finesse, and in no way interfere with the original decorative elements which highlight the building. Within its rather narrow limits, the church provides, indeed, a satisfying architectural experience.

The two acre lot on which the church was originally erected was deeded August 2, 1860 by Francis A. Campbell and Abigail Campbell to Francis A. Campbell, William E. Heritage, Charles S. Souders, Richard Skinner, Jr., and Francis A. Campbell, Jr., Trustees, for \$200.00 "to build a place of worship for members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America." The deed was recorded August 10, 1860 in Book X4 of Deeds, p. 11 at the Clerk's Office in Gloucester County. A copy of the original and a modern typescript hang side by side in the lobby of the church. It is assumed that the church was built in late 1860 or early 1861.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Stansbie, A.C.; Keily, James; and Rea, S.M. A Map of the Counties of Salem and Gloucester, New Jersey. Philadelphia: Smith and Wister, 1849.
2. Lake, D.J., and Beers, S.N. The Vicinity of Philadelphia and Camden. Philadelphia: Stone and Pomeroy, 1860.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.97 Harrison Blk. 20 Lot 6 4.97 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	4,8,5,6,8,0	4,3,9,6,6,6,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Begin at a point in the center of Elmer - Barnsboro Road about 400 feet S.W. of the Five Points intersection; S.W. on Elmer - Barnsboro Road about 450 feet; N.W. to a point in the center of Richwood - Harrisonville Road about 650 feet; N.E. on Richwood - Harrisonville Road about 230 feet; S.E. about 375 feet to the point of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Herbert A. Richardson, Ass't. Prof. History

ORGANIZATION Glassboro State College DATE July 22, 1977

STREET & NUMBER _____ TELEPHONE 609-445-6105

CITY OR TOWN Glassboro STATE New Jersey 08028

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 *Herbert A. Richardson* DATE 7/22/78

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Deputy Commissioner DATE _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles Atkinson DATE 1-19-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION *Joseph Danner* KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

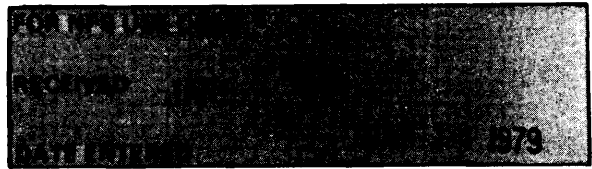
ATTEST: _____ DATE 1-18-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

1. 2. 79



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Description

The parsonage is not included in the nomination

Significance

The cemetery is included and has been historically associated with the church since its founding.

Justification of acreage

The 4.97 acres nominated represent the present land holding of the church specified as Lot6 of Block 20.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUL 25 1978

DATE ENTERED

JAN 19 1979

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

NEW JERSEY: RICHWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER #9 PAGE #1

Item #9 - Major Bibliographical References: (Continued)

3. Everts and Stewart. Combination Atlas Map of Salem and Gloucester Counties, New Jersey. Philadelphia: Everts and Stewart, 1876.
4. Cushing, Thomas, and Sheppard, Charles E. History of the Counties of Gloucester, Salem, and Cumberland, New Jersey, with Biographical Sketches of the Prominent Citizens. Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1883.