

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Hudson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	Aug 14 1973

H13 Zn 18 E 57 23 11

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Bergen Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bergen and Highland Avenues

CITY OR TOWN:
Jersey City

STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34** COUNTY: **Hudson** CODE: **017**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Old Bergen Church, Rev. E. Royden Weeks

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bergen and Highland Avenues

CITY OR TOWN: **Jersey City** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hudson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Jersey City** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

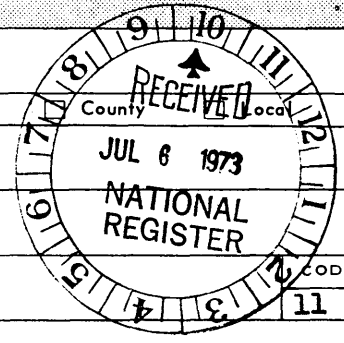
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (NJ-466)

DATE OF SURVEY: **1939** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE: **11**



STATE: **New Jersey**

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7. Description

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Exterior.

The Old Bergen Church is a Greek Revival style cut-brownstone building with a brick front which is stuccoed. The front has a gracious full length Greek Revival portico with pent supported by six turned columns with square bases. Between the center columns is the church tablet (white marble on black marble) and cornerstone insert. Flanking the tablet and between the columns are two doorways with six paneled doors leading to the vestibule.

The structure is one story high with a balcony and has a wooden decorative belfry atop the roof. Each facade of the belfry has two pair of pilasters flanking the louvers. There is a bell within the belfry.

The windows of the church are 16½ feet high and four in number on each side.

The corners of the church are pilastered.

A frieze extends around the structure below the eave, but this frieze is not original. It was originally a two baseboard frieze, but was changed to a narrow clapboard sometime after 1947.

The large Sunday School in the Northwest was added about the turn of the 20th century, and a chapel has been recently built.

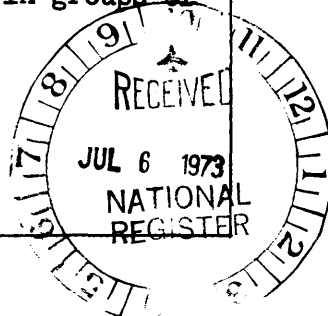
Interior.

Two symetric doorways lead into the front vestibule of the Old Bergen Church. To either side of the vestibule are stairways to the balcony and basement. The vestibule has three doors to the worship area, the center door leading to the main aisle and the flanking doors to the back of the main 15 feet pews. The central pews are divided by a six foot aisle. There are side pews against the windows on each end.

A low wainscoat screen divides the congregation from the minister. The raised pulpit platform is in this section of the church, centered at the back, the pulpit to the right, and with a center stair. The Communion table is immediately behind the stair, and is flanked by four chairs which are shared by elders during services. The original church terminated here, but later a section was provided for the choir and organ. (In addition to a large Sunday School).

The balcony, entered from the vestibule has thirty pews, in groups of three, separated by aisles, and tiered for maximum vision .

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. Significance

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1660, 1680, 1773, 1842

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Religion.

The Dutch were the first Europeans to attempt permanent settlement in New Jersey. The first planned town of New Jersey, named Bergen (now Jersey City), was founded in 1660.

Commensurate with the establishment of Bergen, the Bergen Church was founded. Until 1680 meetings were held in any number of private and public buildings. Then, in 1680, an Octagonal stone church was erected at Bergen Avenue and Vroom Street. In 1773 a new building was constructed on the site of the present church, which was built in 1842. The inscription stones of both previous churches appear over the door on the South side of the present church. There are also many of the stones used in the earlier churches in the present one.

Most historians feel that the Old Bergen Church has the oldest religious congregation in New Jersey, and one of the oldest in the East.

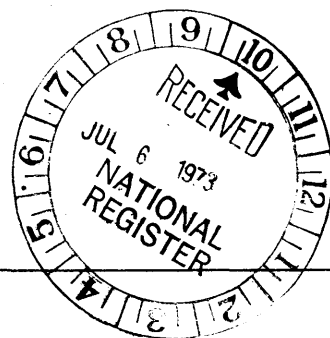
Architecture.

The Old Bergen Church, a Dutch Reformed Church, is a classic blending of Greek Revival details and form with New Jersey Dutch influences.

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

Senator Clifford P. Case
 Senator Harrison A. Williams, Jr.
 Representative Dominick V. Daniels (14th District)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Eaton, Harriet. Jersey City and its Historic Sites. Jersey City, 1899.
 Shaw, W.H. History of Essex and Hudson Counties, New Jersey. 2 Volumes.
 Philadelphia, 1884.
 Van Winkle, Daniel. Old Bergen. Jersey City, 1902.
 Van Winkle, Daniel. History of the Municipalities of Hudson County.
 New York, 1924.
Historic American Buildings Survey. (New Jersey-466), 1939

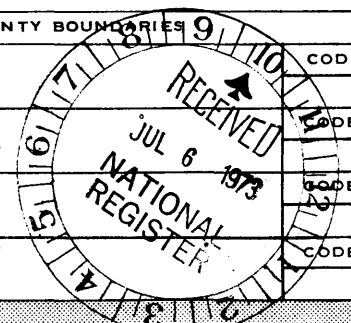
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' " "	° ' " "		40° 43' 30" "	74° 04' 05" "	
NE	° ' " "	° ' " "				
SE	° ' " "	° ' " "				
SW	° ' " "	° ' " "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Terry Karschner, Historian-Curator

ORGANIZATION: Dept. of Environmental Protection, Historic Sites Section DATE: March 14, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Richard J. Sullivan
 Richard J. Sullivan

Title: Commissioner, Dept. Environmental Protection

Date: June 13, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Date: 6/14/73

ATTEST:
Tom Mustang
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: 7 31 73