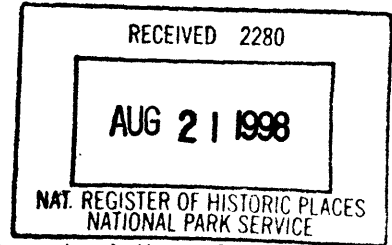


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



1161

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dutch Reformed Church in the English Neighborhood

other names/site number English Neighborhood Reformed Church of Ridgefield

2. Location

street & number 1040 Edgewater Avenue NA  not for publication

city or town Ridgefield Borough  vicinity

state New Jersey code 034 county Bergen code 003 zip code 07657

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally,  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 7/16/98  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] 9-18-98  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Elson H. Beall

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dutch Ref. Ch. in English Neigh.  
Name of Property

NJ Bergen Co.  
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
3	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious facility

Funerary/cemetery

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious facility

Funerary/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Gothic Revival

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone

walls Sandstone

roof Asphalt

other Aluminum (rear apse)

Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion

Architecture

Period of Significance

1793-1912

Significant Dates

1793 1912

1824

1831

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Church office, Ridgely Public Library  
Johnson Public Library, Hackensack, NJ

Dutch Ref.Ch.in English Neigh.  
Name of Property

NJ Bergen Co.  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.8 acres Weehawkin Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	118	581311810	41521061210
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Augusta Arneil and Edna Buchner

organization English Neighborhood Ref. Ch. of Ridgefield date February 1998

street & number 1040 Edgewater Avenue telephone (201) 943-8641

city or town Ridgefield state NJ zip code 07657

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Dutch Reformed Church in the  
English Neighborhood and Cemetery  
Bergen County, New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 1

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Architectural Description

The English Neighborhood Reformed Church of Ridgefield, constructed in 1793, is a rectangular one-story building with balcony. The style is Vernacular Wren-Gibbs with Gothic Revival elements (Photos 1 through 4). The exterior walls are of native brown sandstone, as is the foundation. The gable roof is covered with fiberglass shingles that were put on in 1997. Gutters are aluminum. There is one chimney, which is located on the rear (west) wall of the church. The building is in a part residential and part industrial neighborhood and fronts on Church Street. There is a semicircular driveway, with an entrance on Edgewater Avenue, which curves past the front of the church around to an exit, also on Edgewater Avenue. A lawn occupies the space within the semicircle. A cemetery surrounds the church on all sides. While the interior of the church is in good condition, work needs to be done on the spire. An Education Building/Fellowship Hall, which was erected in 1912, is adjacent to the church on the eastern boundary of the property and is a contributing building.

The English Neighborhood Reformed Church of Ridgefield building was originally constructed in 1770 on Grand and Hillside Avenues in Leonia, New Jersey, about three miles to the north. A bronze marker has been placed there to indicate the site. In 1793 the church was rebuilt at its present location, using some of the same stones and timbers. 1 The reconstruction was overseen by six building managers, who were members of the Consistory.

Today the architecture of the English Neighborhood Reformed Church of Ridgefield is notable for the survival of its original appearance except for the addition of the white aluminum rear apse and a cement-finished church office, which is also in the rear of the church (Photos 5 and 6).

The foundation of the church is of low stone and the exterior walls are of coursed ashlar brown sandstone. There are star-shaped ends on iron bolts on the top of the exterior walls that reinforced construction in early churches and buildings. "The use of pointed arch windows in the building is interesting since it was not common to use Gothic details at a time when classically derived architecture was ubiquitous. However, precedence is clearly seen in the Dutch Reformed Church of Hackensack building erected in 1791" (0233-5). 2

The front of the church has a slightly projecting tower with pointed arched entrance opening, with date stone above, then pointed arched stained-glass window, then round rose window, then beltcourse and pointed arched louvered opening, then octagonal stage terminated by spire supporting ball and weathervane.

1. Information obtained from bronze historic marker at original site of church.
2. Brown, T. Robbins, Sites Survey 1981.

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An arched stained-glass window is on either side of the front entrance doors (Photo No. 8). Side windows have frosted glass (Photo No. 4). Storm windows cover these windows.

In 1920 the steeple was struck by lightning. When it was repaired, it was shortened by eight feet. This threw off surveyors who had used it as a checkpoint. In 1938 the steeple was restored to its original height.

Entrance to the church is through white, wood double doors (Photo No. 7) which lead into the narthex. The front door panels are of double thickness. Nailed into the reverse side of the doors are batten boards placed athwart, or crosswise (Photo No. 12). Long iron hinges and huge lock are prized possessions. A stained glass transom is over the doors. The narthex (Photo No. 12) is ten feet eight inches by eleven feet. Hanging from the ceiling is a five-lamp chandelier. There are stairs (Photo No. 13) on either side of the narthex which curve up into the balcony area. In the narthex are two white, wood doors which lead into the sanctuary. Each door has a small leaded glass pane at the top (Photo No. 14).

The sanctuary is thirty-five and one-half feet wide and forty-one feet long. There is a center aisle and two side aisles. The ten rows of pews are wood panel, painted white, with mahogany trim (Photo No. 15). Originally there were twelve rows of pews, but the first two rows were removed in order to enlarge the pulpit area. At one time the pews had doors at each end, but these were removed in 1905. There are also three rows of pews to the right of the pulpit, facing the side of the pulpit. These were originally used by the elders and deacons during communion services. Floors are hardwood, with maroon carpet runners in the aisles and on the stairs.

The walls of the sanctuary are painted off-white and have a rectangular block pattern (Photo No. 18). There is a wood panelled area around the bottom of the walls, about four feet high, which is painted white and is trimmed with a darker wood.

The two stained-glass windows with pointed arches, which are on each side of the entrance doors, can be seen from the stairs leading to the balcony. There are also three windows on each side of the sanctuary which extend up into the balcony area (Photo No. 16). The windows have four panes over four panes with a transom. The panes are of frosted glass with an all-over pattern. Each window has a thin border about one-inch wide in either blue, red or green. The arched area at the top of each window has three textured glass sections. These memorial windows were installed in 1963.

The pulpit has five wooden panels painted white, with mahogany trim (Photo No. 17). It sits on a carpeted platform about two feet high. The platform has two steps on each side. The altar is positioned on the floor in front of the pulpit platform.

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On the altar are two brass candlesticks, two brass vases and a brass cross (Photo No. 17). Two wood high-backed chairs, painted white with maroon velvet upholstery, sit on the pulpit platform (Photo No. 19), and two similar chairs are on each side of the altar.

There is a piano to the left of the pulpit, just under the balcony (Photo No. 15), and a baptismal font to the right of the pulpit near the three rows of pews. The American flag is to the left and the Christian flag to the right of the chairs on the platform (Photo No. 15).

Behind the raised pulpit is a choir loft with a built-in bench for the choir members. Also in the loft is a 19-rank organ with chimes. The organ was installed in 1956 and replaced the pipe organ which dated back to 1905. The top of the loft area is framed with a wide plaster molding. There is also a wide white plaster molding all around the sanctuary where the walls meet the ceiling (Photo No. 19).

Decorating the walls of the church are three marble plaques (Photo No. 18), each commemorating services rendered by former ministers; one brass plaque recording the merger of English Neighborhood and Bergen Boulevard Reformed Churches in 1991; one brass plaque in memory of Cornelius Vreeland, one of the founders of the church; three small pictures of the church, and the William & Mary Coat of Arms used by the Dutch Reformed Church.

A large brass chandelier, which was installed in 1938, hangs from a white molded medallion in the center of the sanctuary ceiling (Photo No. 19). It has a large center light and twelve lamps. The original medallion was made of plaster but, because of cracking due to vibrations caused by traffic, it was replaced with a molded foam medallion. The ceiling is a groined ceiling of dark stained pieces of wood arranged in triangles which converge to a point in the center of the ceiling. This ceiling was installed in 1900 and replaced the former 1 x 10 board ceiling of white pine.

There is a U-shaped wood panelled balcony which is supported by eight plain columns (photos 15, 16, 19 and 20). Two rows of stepped pews are on each side of the balcony. The balcony is about eight feet wide from the wall to the railing. There is a small room in the center of the back of the balcony in the steeple section, with access to the steeple through the trap door. The rope to ring the church bell is in this room. The present bell, which now is seldom used, is one that was presented to the church in 1855. Since 1986 a carillon has been used. The carillon is programmed to play several hymns four times a day from Monday through Saturday, and six times on Sunday.

Electricity was first installed in the church in 1903. The present service is 220 AMP/240 volt/1 phase. Heat is provided by a gas-fired burner. Central air conditioning was installed in 1963.

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Dutch Reformed Church in the  
English Neighborhood  
Bergen County, New Jersey

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For a description of the contributing Education Building/Fellowship Hall, see Section 10,  
Page 2.

For a description of the contributing cemetery, see Section 8, Page 6, fourth paragraph.



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Bergen County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 1Statement of Significance

The English Neighborhood Reformed Church of Ridgefield located at 1040 Edgewater Avenue and built in 1793 is one of eight stone churches in Bergen County associated with the Dutch Reformed religion. As with the other churches built between 1791 and 1819, this church is an outstanding example of a vernacular interpretation of a church type established by the British architects Sir Christopher Wren and James Gibbs. All these churches illustrate the merging of the stone building methods of the Dutch culture with English architectural layout and forms. The non-extant church and original congregation known as the Dutch Reformed Church in the English Neighborhood was founded in Leonia in 1768. Garrit Lydekker, the first preacher was an outspoken Tory and a well known Bergen County figure in the American Revolution. In 1793 the congregation was re-established and the present building constructed in Ridgefield. Since that time the English Neighborhood Reformed Church of Ridgefield has played a significant role in Bergen County ecclesiastical history. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries the congregation was instrumental in founding two daughter congregations, each with their own church buildings. One was the Reformed Dutch Church at New Durham (North Bergen), now called Grove Reformed Church. The other was the Bergen Boulevard Reformed Church in Ridgefield.

In 1768 a Dutch Reformed church was organized in what was then known as the English Neighborhood, in what is now known as the Borough of Leonia in Bergen County. Two years after that they constructed a building on the site. A church building was constructed on a one-acre lot of land conveyed by Thomas Moore at what is today the southeast corner of Grand and Hillside Avenues in Leonia. At that time Grand Avenue was called the English Neighborhood Road. It was shown on a map prepared for General George Washington by his surveyor, Robert Erskine. The church was called the "Dutch Reformed Church in the English Neighborhood."

Before 1770 there were sixteen Dutch Reformed churches in New Jersey, none of which were within the boundaries of the English Neighborhood. The English Neighborhood included the Boroughs of Fairview, Leonia and Ridgefield, and went as far north as the City of Englewood.

The first minister of the congregation was Dominie Gerrit Lydekker. His installation took place in July of 1770. Dominie Lydekker, who was of Dutch extraction, was born in 1729 in Bergen County. There were nineteen members in the congregation--ten men and nine women.

At the time the church was organized, a controversy was taking place within the Dutch church. One faction was called the Coetus, and the other the Conferentie. The Coetus were anxious to have an independent Dutch Church in America. The Conferentie represented the battle as one to preserve the authority of Amsterdam and the ways of the fathers in the American Dutch church. The Coetus felt the Conferentie's real objective was to oppose the great religious revival that had swept the colonies in the thirty years before the Revolution, the revival that has come to be called the "Great Awakening."

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In an ecclesiastical document of the English Neighborhood church dated November 18, 1768, it was stated that the congregation would keep out of the debate between Coetus and Conferentie as much as possible and try to live in Christian peace with both parties. Despite the congregation's wish to be neutral in the religious dispute, Dominie Lydekker sided with the Conferentie. This debate was peacefully settled under the leadership of John Livingston in 1771. The Dutch church in America became an independent church.

The church was witness to the American Revolution in earnest when troops of General George Washington retreated from Fort Lee past the little house of worship in 1776 on their way to Hackensack. With the coming of the Continental Army, all those who believed in the British cause had to flee. Among them was Gerrit Lydekker, a Tory sympathizer who fled to New York taking church records with him. These records were never recovered. Dominie Lydekker remained in New York until October of 1783 at which time he sailed for England. He lived there until his death in 1794 at age 65. Twenty-nine new members were added to the church during his tenure.

During the war years the church was "used as a guardhouse and hospital"<sup>2</sup> at various times. When the war ended in 1783, services were held only occasionally when the services of a supply minister could be obtained.

In May of 1793, after the church had been without a minister for sixteen years, the Reverend John Cornelison was installed as a part-time minister. He spent one-third of his time at English Neighborhood and two-thirds at Bergen Church in Jersey City. It was then that an effort was made to dismantle the old church building in Leonia and rebuild at its present site in Ridgefield, approximately three miles to the south, "using some of the timbers and stones in construction of the succeeding edifice in Ridgefield."<sup>3</sup>

Cornelius Vreelandt, a local landowner, sold to the Consistory, the local governing body of the church, one-half acre of land for the price of ten pounds for the construction of the church. It is believed that the place proposed was chosen because of its location at the confluence of Overpeck Creek and the Hackensack River. Here in colonial days was the eastern terminus of the crossing known as The Little Ferry. The new location may also have been influenced by the 1793 decision of the Bergen County Justices and Freeholders to build a bridge across the Overpeck near the old ferry landing. This would provide a more convenient and swifter crossroad between eastern and western Bergen County.

Minutes of the Consistory under date of 1793 state "The Stone and Timber to be brought on the Ground free Gratus and no money to be Paid or Laid out Unless it be for Materiels till the Carpenters and Masons Work is Begun. The following Persons are Appointed Mannegers Messrs. Cornelius Vreelandt, Garret Banta, John Williams, John Day, Rinier Earl, and Samuel Edsall. Whose Business it shall be to Ingage Workmen and Labourers Procure

<sup>1</sup>Jones, E. Alfred, The Loyalists of New Jersey, N.J. Historical Society, Newark, N.J. 1927, pp. 134, 135.

<sup>2</sup>Bronze historical marker at original site of church.

<sup>3</sup>Bronze historical marker at original site of church.

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Materials Superintendent the Work and do Everything Necessary to promote said Building."

Voluntary subscriptions were to defray the expenses of construction. There were eighty-two subscribers who paid a total of 206 pounds 5 shillings, equivalent to \$1030.60 in U. S. currency. After the church was completed, the pews were auctioned off to the highest bidders. A total of 1244 pounds 1 shilling, equal to \$6220.12 in U.S. currency, was realized from sixty-nine bidders.

In 1804 Edgewater Avenue, the road on which the church is located, became part of the famous toll road known as the Bergen Turnpike. For one hundred years countless wagon-loads of farm products were hauled past the church on their way to Hudson River ferry landings and sale at New York City markets.

The Reverend John Cornelison remained as pastor until November 29, 1806. He left when Bergen Church required his services full time. During his tenure forty-three new members were added to the church.

The church was duly incorporated, according to law, on December 29, 1809 and this was recorded on February 3, 1810 in the book of Vital Records at Hackensack.

On May 25, 1813 the Reverend Cornelius T. Demarest became the fourth pastor, succeeding the Reverend Henry Polhemus who had served after the Reverend Cornelison.

In 1824 a serious rift developed within the English Neighborhood church. Pastor Demarest, and many in the congregation, felt that the church was no longer true to the doctrines of the Dutch Reformed Church. On January 29, 1824 a meeting was held in the church. Present were the elders and deacons and twenty-five heads of families. The chairman, one of the elders, stated that the Classis of Bergen had at their meetings tolerated false doctrines, which the General Synod had also done, and had passed illegal or unconstitutional orders. The Consistory asked whether those at the meeting advised a dissolution of the connection with the Classis of Bergen. Only four voted against the dissolution.

Later, on the same day, the Consistory met and resolved that their connection with the Classis of Bergen and the General Synod was dissolved; that they wanted to remain what they always had been, a "true" Reformed Dutch Church, adhering steadfastly to the constitution of the Reformed Dutch Church, and that they acknowledged themselves to be subordinate to none other than the Classis and Synod of the True Reformed Dutch Church, whose reasons for separating from the General Synod, as contained in their printed pamphlets, they approved and adopted.

An excerpt from the minutes of the Consistory at that time states: "Ordered that the Elder James Lydecker take charge of the key to the church--and together with the Deacon John Edsall be a committee to affix a bar and lock to the church doors, whenever in their opinion it shall be deemed necessary."

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On February 2, 1824 the Consistory met. Commissioners of the Classis of the True Reformed Church attended and inquired whether the Consistory had determined unanimously to dissolve their connection with the Classis of Bergen and the General Synod, and place themselves under the care of the Classis and Synod of the True Reformed Dutch Church. Each elder and deacon answered in the affirmative.

On February 18, 1824 the Classis of Bergen met and charged the Reverend Demarest with having falsified minutes of an earlier classis meeting when he was Clerk of the Bergen Classis. He was accused of abuse and false slanders uttered in private conversations and in the pulpit, against the Bergen Classis and against the Dutch church generally and he was accused of public schism. The Reverend Demarest was asked to appear to answer said charges, but he replied that he had made up his mind not to come. Consequently, the trial proceeded without his presence. He was adjudged guilty and suspended from the office of ministry, and the pastoral relations between him and the church at English Neighborhood dissolved.

On the same day a complaint signed by sixty-two members of the congregation, containing charges against the elders and deacons, was presented to the Classis of Bergen. The case was tried and the evidence spread out on the classical minutes. The seats of these consistorymen were declared vacant and they were deposed from their respective office. A new Consistory was ordered to be chosen.

Under the state of things, property contests arose. The respective consistories claimed to hold the property. To regain the key and settlement of the property, it was necessary to take the matter to court. A lawsuit of the utmost importance to the Reformed Dutch Church, as well as all denominations in the United States of America was filed in the Supreme Court of the State of New Jersey. The court consisted of Chief Justice Ewing and Associate Justices Ford and Drake. The Chief Justice's opinion was as follows:

JOHN DEN ex dem. HENRY DAY and others vs. THEOPHILUS BOLTON and others

All disputes arising in the Reformed Dutch Church respecting the validity of an election, appointment or call of elders and deacons, must be referred to the church judicatory to which the congregation is subordinate; that is, first to the Classis, next to the Particular Synod, and lastly to the General Synod.

The decision of the Classis upon any such election, appointment, or call, is final, unless appealed from, and its decision will be respected by the Supreme Court, and full effect given to it.

Though the Consistory may be dissatisfied with the decision of the Classis, they cannot get clear of the decision by changing their allegiance.

To constitute a member of any church, two points, at the least, are essential, a profession of its faith and a submission to its government.

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After persons withdraw from a church; they do not continue members of it, simply because they hold the same religious faith and tenets with the members of that church.

Whomsoever the judicatory of the Dutch Reformed Church decide to be the spiritual officers, the Supreme Court are bound to respect as such.<sup>4</sup>

The judgment was for the plaintiffs and adverse to the succession. Decision was made at the February term 1831.

In June 1824 the Classis of the True Reformed Church resolved that the body should thereafter be known by the name of the General Synod of the True Reformed Dutch Church in the United States of America. They organized two Classes, by the names of Hackensack and Union, under the care of the Synod. The True Reformed Dutch Church then contained, according to the table published in their minutes, sixteen churches or congregations. Eventually the seceders from English Neighborhood built a new church in Leonia which existed until 1933. The building was torn down in 1933 and the congregation merged with the Presbyterian Church.

The numbers at English Neighborhood were greatly reduced by the defection of those who called themselves True Reformed Dutch Church. Nevertheless, the church weathered the storm.

The Reverend Gustavus Abeel succeeded Pastor Demarest on February 10, 1825. Pastor Abeel labored tirelessly to heal the effects of the lawsuit, and soon regained a settled and stable condition within the church. It was during his tenure that the building of English Neighborhood's daughter church in New Durham was completed.

The early religious history of the Village of New Durham (now North Bergen) is closely identified with that of the Dutch Reformed Church in the English Neighborhood. Since approximately 1815, the people at New Durham were a component part of the English Neighborhood church, enjoying the afternoon services of English Neighborhood's pastor, who travelled to New Durham to preach for them. Due to population growth and a desire for more frequent services the group at New Durham wanted to organize its own church. The English Neighborhood consistory granted a petition to its members at New Durham to form an independent church to be known as "The Reformed Protestant Dutch Church at New Durham" and deeded to them the property for the church on March 27, 1843. Thus a daughter church of English Neighborhood was born. The name of the church was later changed to Grove Reformed Church and is extant today in North Bergen.

<sup>4</sup>Taylor, Rev. Benjamin C., Annals of the Classis of Bergen, Board of Publications of the Reformed Church in America, New York, 1857, p. 251.

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Under the leadership of Pastor George W. Furbeck, the thirteenth minister, a new work was begun on the second hill of Ridgefield, on Bergen Boulevard. Services were being held in the homes of those desiring spiritual services. A special meeting of the Consistory was held on Sunday, June 15, 1924 and it was voted to start to conduct services in Ridgefield's School No. 3. Then a church building was erected. On January 31, 1926 the Bergen Boulevard Reformed Church became an independent church. The second daughter church of English Neighborhood was born. Bergen Boulevard Reformed Church was extant until November 1991, at which time it merged with English Neighborhood.

On March 23, 1933 the congregation authorized the corporate name of the English Neighborhood church to be changed from the Dutch Reformed Church in the English Neighborhood to the English Neighborhood Reformed Church.

Twenty-one ministers have served since the church first organized to the present time. When English Neighborhood and Bergen Boulevard Reformed Churches merged in 1991, the merged church was legally incorporated as the English Neighborhood Reformed Church of Ridgefield.

The earliest recorded burial in the cemetery, which surrounds the church, was on September 22, 1799. Many of the early families who were influential in settling the area are buried in the cemetery. These include Ackerman, Day, Demarest, Edsall, Huyler, Lydecker, Moore, Vreeland and Wortendyke. Alexander Shaler, a Civil War general is also buried in the cemetery. Some of the older tombstones were made of sandstone or marble. Through the years the elements have almost totally obliterated the names and dates on some of the stones. A fence encircles the cemetery. The cemetery has always had a dirt road running through it until a year ago when the road was blacktopped.

Architecturally the Church edifice is a well-preserved example of the stone churches Dutch congregations built during the generation following the Revolution. The masonry, characterized by its courses of well-shaped brownstone blocks, embodies the style of stonework popular among the Dutch from the 1780s until well after 1800. The masonry, taken together with the form of the building that combines the nave with an integral tower that projects from the plane of the facade, formed a popular church building type among the Dutch during the period that coincided with the popularity of the Federal style.

The building is further highlighted by a very early use of lancet arches in the windows, which would become in the nineteenth century a hallmark of the Gothic Revival style. Such a feature appears to have been adopted from the Dutch Reformed Church of Hackensack, the rebuilding of which was completed in 1791, just two years before the church in Ridgefield. The Hackensack church, in turn, had evidently borrowed the lancet arch for its windows from Trinity Episcopal Church in New York City, which was rebuilt in 1788-90. Trinity Church appears to have been the first church in the New York City area (and possibly in the United States) to incorporate lancet-arched windows (see National Register nomination for Dutch Reformed Church of Hackensack).

United States Department of the Interior  
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dutch Reformed Church in the  
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## Verbal Boundary Description

The church's boundaries are: Edgewater Avenue on the north, Hendricks Causeway on the south, Church Street on the east and Fulton Street on the west. The church's property includes all the land that is within these streets. Listed on the municipal tax maps as Block 2907, Lot 1.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dutch Reformed Church in the  
English Neighborhood  
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### Boundary Justification

The original church property consisted of one-half acre. More land was acquired in 1818, 1849, 1853 and 1932. The total acreage is now 5.84 acres and consists of the entire block known as Block No. 2907, Lot no. 1, which is recorded in the Ridgefield Tax Office. The boundary of the area being nominated is as shown on the accompanying map. The nominated area includes the church and cemetery as well as the Education Building/Fellowship Hall which is a contributing building.

The Education Building/Fellowship Hall, constructed in 1912, is a one-story building with a basement. In 1954 a kitchen was added on the east side of the building. Two classrooms were added in the basement level, under the kitchen. In 1962 a rear addition was put on the building enlarging the Fellowship Hall. Beneath this addition a garage was built, which houses equipment that is used by the cemetery workers. The Education Building/Fellowship Hall was previously covered with dark brown shingles. In the past couple of years aluminum siding (cream colored) and a new roof were installed.

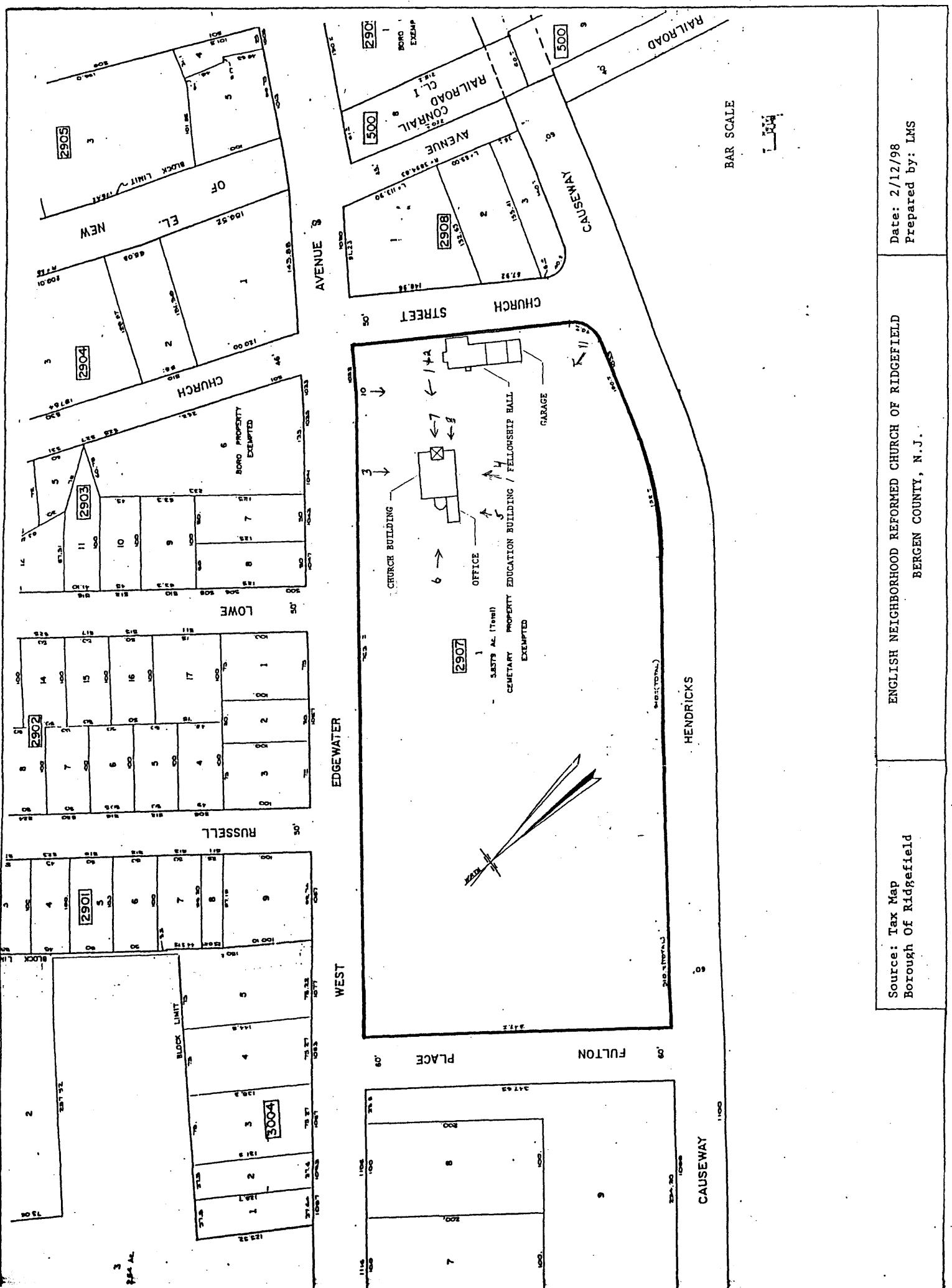
The church property is relatively isolated as it has been situated on a dead-end street since 1932 when Edgewater Avenue was closed at the railroad tracks.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetDutch Reformed Church in the  
English Neighborhood  
Bergen County, New JerseySection number Photos Page 1Photographs

Name of Photographer Photos 1 through 11 - Augusta Arneil  
Date of Photographs - April 2, 1997  
Location of Original Negatives - 801 Ravenhill Place  
Ridgefield, N.J. 07657

Name of Photographer Photos 12 through 22 - Frederick Berenbroick  
Date of Photographs - November 7, 1997  
Location of Original Negatives - 801 Ravenhill Place  
Ridgefield, N.J. 07657

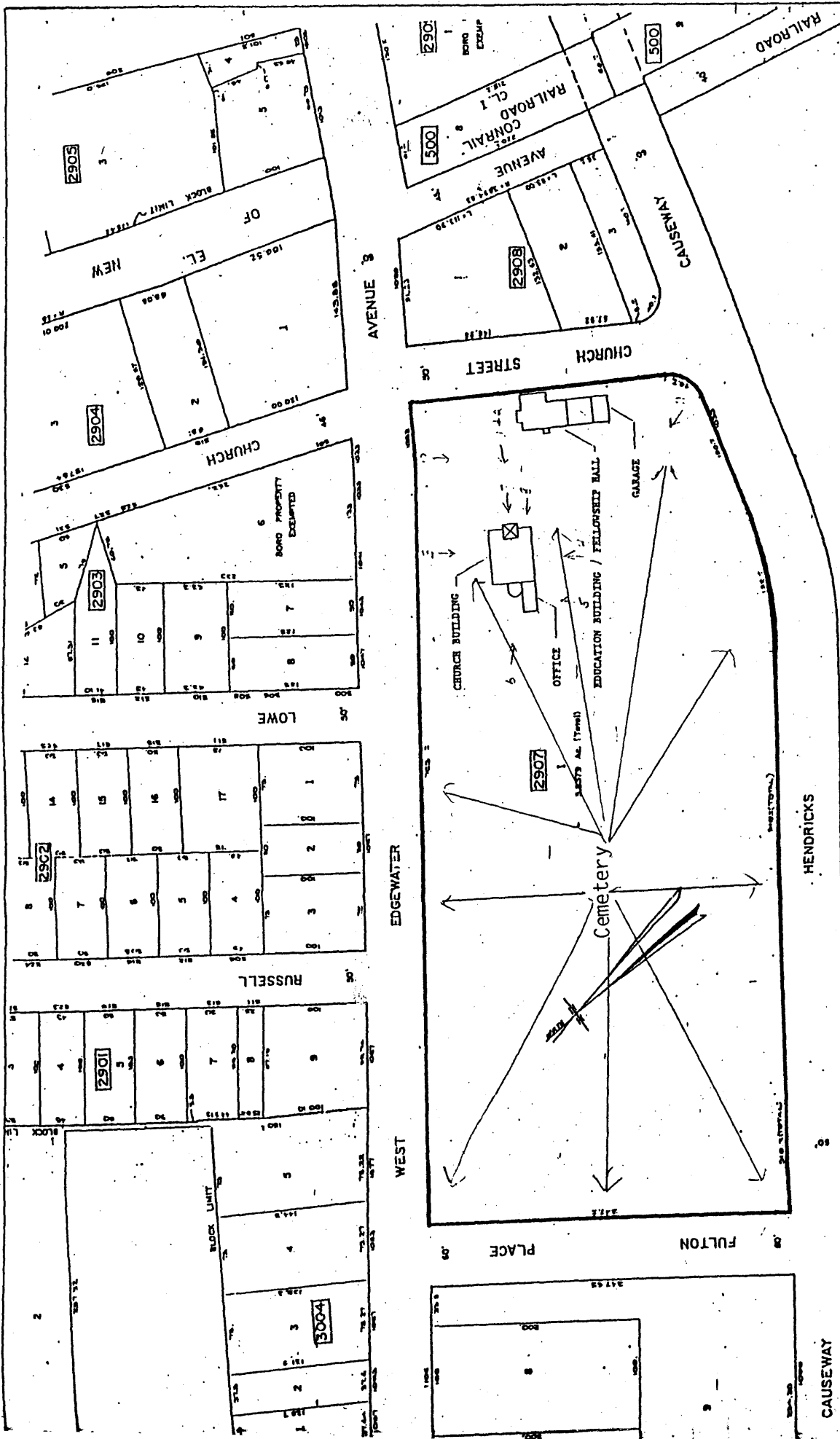
- Photograph No. 1 - Front view of church, looking west.  
No. 2 - Front view of church, looking west.  
No. 3 - Side view of church, looking south.  
No. 4 - Side view of church, looking north.  
No. 5 - Church office, looking north.  
No. 6 - Rear apse, looking east.  
No. 7 - Entrance to church, with date stone above door  
showing building was erected in 1793, looking west.  
No. 8 - Stained glass window, covered by storm window, to  
the left of entrance, looking west.  
No. 9 - Interior view of church, facing altar and pulpit.  
No. 10 - Education Building/Fellowship Hall. This is a  
contributing building and is located on the eastern  
border of the property.  
No. 11 - View of cemetery which surrounds church, looking northwest.  
No. 12 - View of narthex from sanctuary.  
No. 13 - Stairs leading to balcony.  
No. 14 - Doors from sanctuary leading to narthex.  
No. 15 - Interior view of church showing pulpit and organ.  
No. 16 - View of side windows and balcony.  
No. 17 - View of pulpit.  
No. 18 - One of three marble plaques on rectangularly-shaped  
block walls.  
No. 19 - View of chandelier.  
No. 20 - View of balcony.  
No. 21 - Post in front of first row of pews.  
No. 22 - Some of the columns supporting balcony.



Date: 2/12/98  
 Prepared by: LMS

ENGLISH NEIGHBORHOOD REFORMED CHURCH OF RIDGEFIELD  
 BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.

Source: Tax Map  
 Borough Of Ridgefield

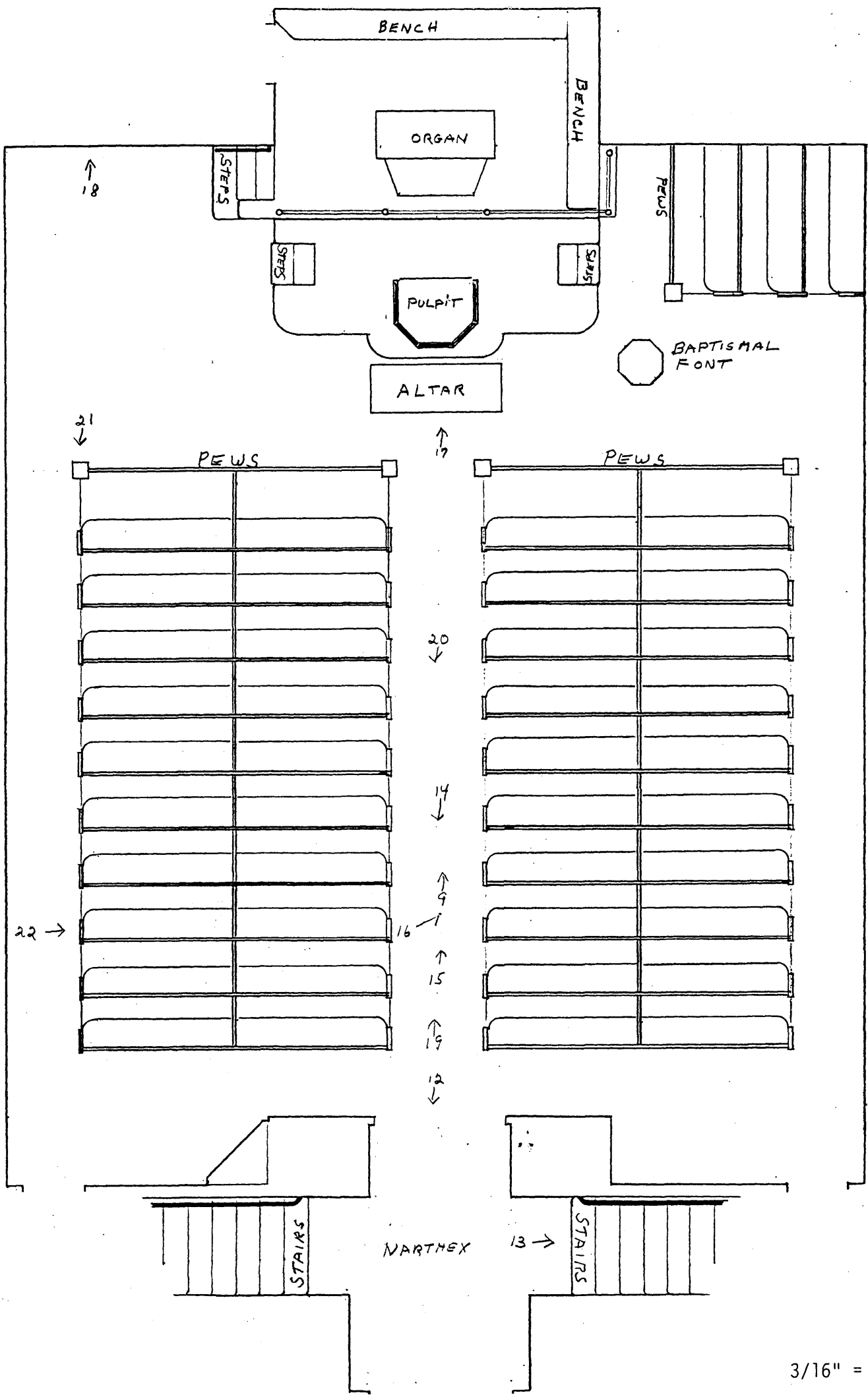


Date: 2/12/98  
 Prepared by: LMS

ENGLISH NEIGHBORHOOD REFORMED CHURCH OF RIDGEFIELD  
 BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.

Source: Tax Map  
 Borough Of Ridgefield

English Neighborhood Reformed Church, Bergen County, New Jersey

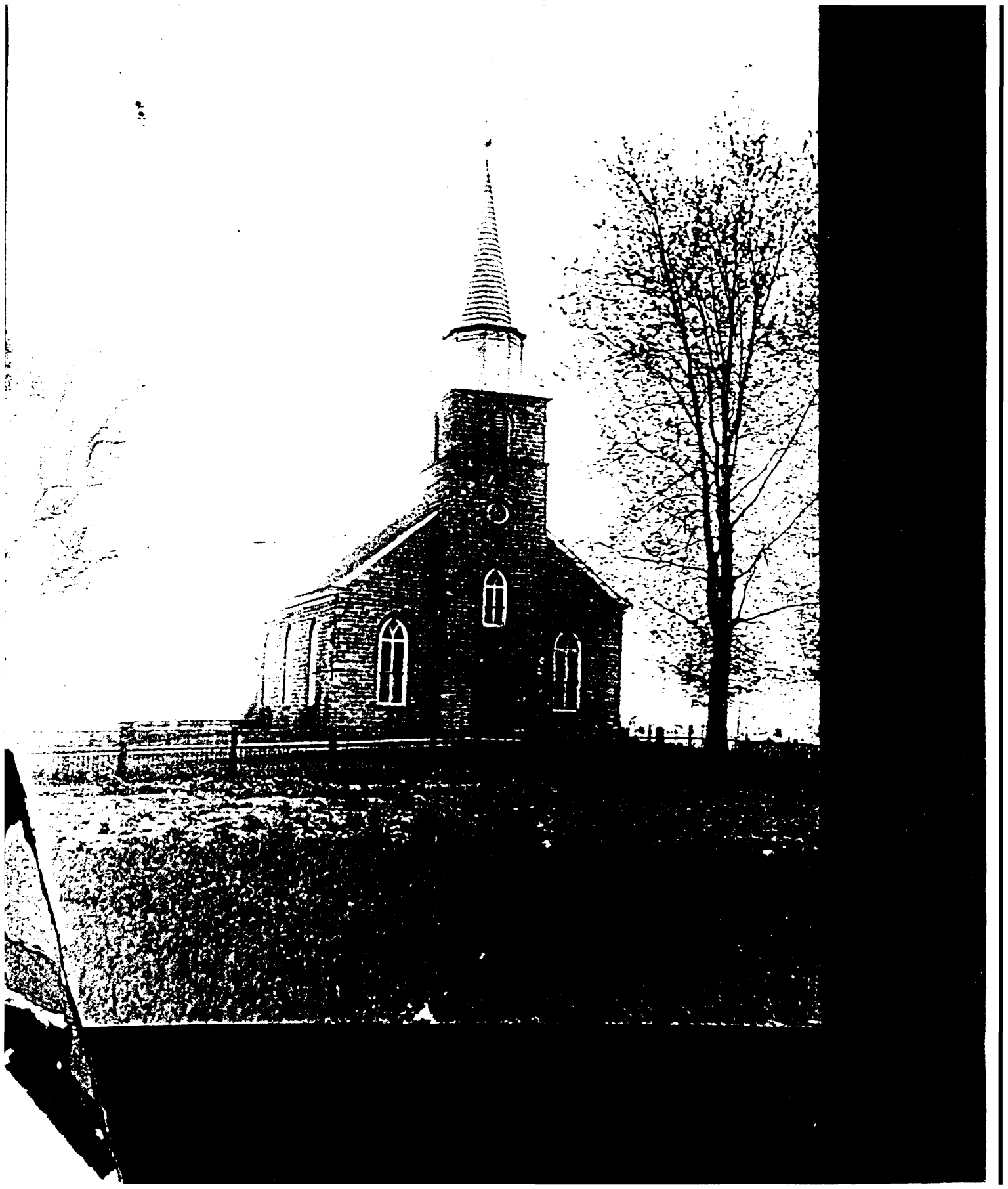


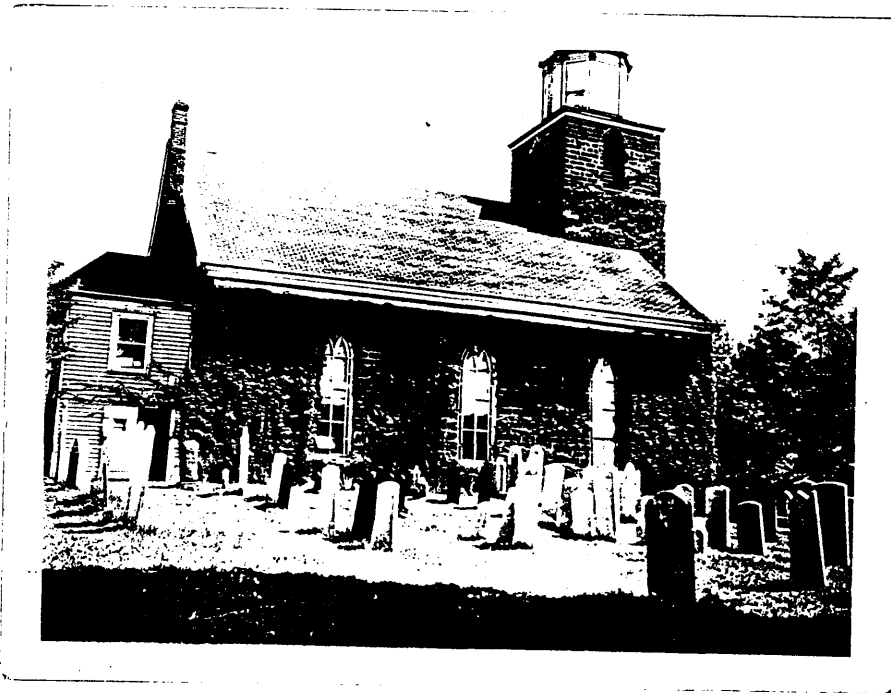
3/16" = 1 ft.



REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH, HACKENSACK, N. J.

Erected 1791. Enlarged 1847.





English Neighborhood Reformed Church of Ridgefield  
Bergen County, New Jersey



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CHURCH OF ENGLISH NEIGHBORHOOD, RIDGEFIELD, N. J. (Bergen County)  
(See Page Eight)

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English Neighborhood Reformed Church of Ridgefield  
Bergen County, New Jersey

