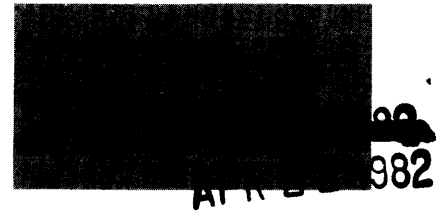


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 First Reformed Dutch Church of Bergen Neck (First Reformed Church of Bayonne)  
and/or common First Federated Church (Presbyterian & Reformed)

**2. Location**

street & number Avenue C and Corner of 33rd Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Bayonne N/A vicinity of congressional district 14th  
state New Jersey code 34 county Hudson code 017

**3. Classification**

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Status  | Present Use                                   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government           |
|   | <u>N/A</u> being considered                 | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial           |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <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:               |

**4. Owner of Property**

name First Federated Church of Bayonne (Presbyterian and Reformed)  
street & number Avenue C and 33rd Street  
city, town Bayonne N/A vicinity of state New Jersey

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jersey City County Court House, Office of the Register of Hudson County  
street & number 595 Newark Avenue  
city, town Jersey City state New Jersey

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N.J. Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Office of Cultural and Environmental Services  
city, town Trenton state New Jersey

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered  
interior

### Check one

original site  
 moved date ca. 1875

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located at the corner of West 33rd Street and Avenue C, the First Dutch Reformed Church of Bergen Neck in Bayonne, built in 1866, is a gable roofed rectangular frame church on a raised brick ground floor. Attached to the pedimented gable front is a slightly projecting center Italianate tower with octagonal spire. There are tall round arch stained glass windows on the main floor. Originally clapboarded with corner pilasters, the entire building is presently covered in modern wood shingles. The church was moved in the 1870's.

The main church entrance is at the base of the tower. The doorway, as shown in an 1879 painting, originally had a round arch, but was drastically modified around 1960 with a triangular pediment. Above and to either side of the entrance are large stained glass windows with hood molds and corbel stops. The pointed arch tracery shown in the 1879 painting have been replaced with later stained glass, perhaps in the 1890's.

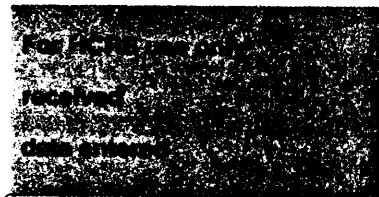
The bell tower and spire of the Dutch Reformed Church is similar to the First Presbyterian Church of Newton in Sussex County (1869, Charles Graham, architect). The frame tower is capped by a heavy molded cornice with brackets and cross gables. The belfry has louvered round arch windows and molded surrounds with corbel stops on each face. These window arches project into the hood arch cornice at the top of the belfry. At the base of the octagonal spire are small pointed dormer windows on alternating faces.

The longitudinal facade of the church along West 33rd Street has seven bays - the first five are part of the original 1866 church and the final two bays are the 1890's expansion. The detailed entablature has a molded cornice, dentil, egg and dart moldings, and frieze. Although the rear two bays project out slightly and feature a pediment, this newer fenestration has otherwise identical hood-mold stained glass windows on the first floor and flat arch 8/8 sash windows on the ground level. The entablature of the rear section also replicates that of the original church.

The interior plan consists of an entry vestibule and staircase opening into the nave which contains two rows of pews, a center aisle, and sanctuary with a raised platform and pulpit. In the rear and side of the sanctuary is the choir and organ loft. In the front, or entrance, of the church, above the vestibule was an open gallery, enclosed in the 1920's and decorated with three stained glass windows. The pews are late 19th century, probably installed when the church was expanded. The raised altar is backed by a rood screen. Both appear to be late 19th century although the top of the wood screen has been truncated. It is feasible this was done in the 1920's when the ceiling was possibly lowered slightly and hanging lanterns installed.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Inventory—Nomination Form**



First Reformed Dutch Church of Bergen Neck, Bayonne

Continuation sheet Hudson County, New Jersey Item number 7

Page 1

7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The ground, or basement, level is a simple large meeting area with a series of decorative cast-iron columns supporting the floor above. This room was originally plaster, but was completely covered with knotty pine paneling in 1950. This floor presently functions as Sunday school, kitchen, and general meeting area.

The parsonage, circa 1875-1890, located alongside the church, was purchased by the congregation in the 1890's. Covered in wood shingles identical to the church, this building is a 3 bay, 2 story frame dwelling with bracketed roof and cross gable. The house has a later one story front enclosed porch. The windows are 6/6 sash. There is a polygonal bay projection in the rear. The foundation is brick and there is a small interior brick chimney.

## 8. Significance

| Period  | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning                | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation                      | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics                         | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering                       | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–     | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry                          | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation      |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention                         |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)     |

**Specific dates** 1866 **Builder/Architect** UNKNOWN

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In continuous use since its construction in 1866, the First Dutch Reformed Church of Bergen Neck, now the First Federated Church, is a rare vestige of Bayonne's pre-urban past. When the Dutch Reformed Church was built, Bayonne was beginning a physical transformation from farmland and small villages in the mid-19th century to the major center for the petroleum industry in the late 19th century. So comprehensive was the change that there are few buildings left in Bayonne today which reflect its early settlement history.

The First Dutch Reformed Church is an unusual surviving example of vernacular Italianate style architecture in the City of Bayonne. The design and overall configuration is similar to works by builder/architect Charles Graham (fl. 1852–1888), who was responsible for a number of ecclesiastical buildings (primarily Protestant) in New Jersey during the third quarter of the 19th century (i.e. Simpson United Methodist Church, Perth Amboy; First Presbyterian Church of Newton). The distinctive Italianate tower and spire of the Dutch Reformed Church are similar to that of the First Presbyterian Church of Newton. Although Graham's actual participation in the construction of the Dutch Reformed Church has not been documented, his influence is obvious.

The Dutch Reformed Church is one of the few extant physical reminders of Bayonne's proud Dutch culture and tradition. The Reformed Church of Bergen Neck was incorporated in 1829 (Bergen County Deeds - Book A3, p. 559, 1/16/1829). Membership of the Reformed Church Congregation stemmed from that of the Old Bergen Church in Jersey City which was founded in 1660 by the early Dutch settlers. The first Bergen Neck church building was constructed in 1829 on land given by Deacon Richard Cadmus at what is now Broadway and 29th Street in Bayonne. Prominent members of the early congregation included names such as Cadmus, Van Buskirk, Van Horn, Vreeland, and Zabriskie.

In 1840 when Hudson County was created by an act of the New Jersey State Legislature out of southern Bergen County, the congregation of the Bergen Neck Reformed Dutch Church was estimated at 450 members. While the population of the area continued growing for the next 30 years, it remained predominantly Dutch Protestant farmsteads surrounding a number of small villages. The 1860's brought an era of change to Bergen Neck. In 1857 a law was enacted authorizing the formation of street grids for Bergen Neck. By 1861 the Bergen Neck area was separated from Bergen Township, becoming Bayonne Township. A few years later, in 1869, Bayonne was incorporated as a city. In the interim the Jersey City Central RR completed its initial rail line to Jersey City through Bayonne. During this transformation of Bergen Neck to Bayonne in name and composi-

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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 Layonne, New Jersey; Keystone Printing Company, 1978

# 10. Geographical Data ~~UTM NOT VERIFIED~~ ~~ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED~~

Acreage of nominated property 14,000 square feet (little more than 1/3 of an acre)

Quadrangle name Jersey City, NJ

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

**UMT References**

A 

|      |   |   |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 8 | 5 | 7 | 4       | 8 | 5 | 0 | 4        | 5 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 0 |
| Zone |   |   |   | Easting |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |

B 

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| Zone |  |  |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

C 

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| Zone |  |  |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| Zone |  |  |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| Zone |  |  |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

G 

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|      |  |  |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  |  |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

H 

|      |  |  |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |  |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  |  |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Note: see boundaries under question No. 7, also from Map (Appendix C)  
 Block 176, Lot 21A - Bayonne Tax Map

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

Revised by Terry Karschner, Office of Cultural and Environmental Services

name/title Joan Vreeland Studer, Historian Researcher

organization Authorized by Rev. Dodd, Pastor date August 8, 1980

street & number 16 Sienna Way telephone (201) 337-4468

city or town Oakland state New Jersey 07436

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

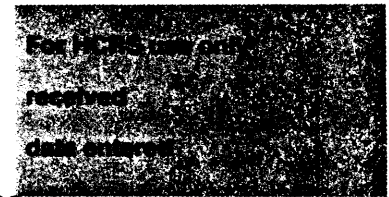
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Laurie K... [Signature]*

title \_\_\_\_\_ date October 23, 1981

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| For HCRS use only  |                                  |
| I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register | Entered in the National Register |
| <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u>  | date <u>4/22/82</u>              |
| Keeper of the National Register  |                                  |
| Attest:  | date                             |
| Chief of Registration  |                                  |

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet **First Reformed Dutch Church of Bergen Neck, Bayonne**  
Hudson County, NJ **Item number 8**

Page 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

tion, the present Reformed Dutch Church was built in 1866 at the corner of Avenue C and Bayonne Avenue (now 33rd St.) on grounds deeded to the consistory by Eraatus Randall. The church was dedicated March 31, 1867. A few years afterwards, the city, wishing to have a broad main road bisecting the peninsula north to south, straightened and widened Avenue C. Many structures were moved including the Dutch Reformed Church. (Robinson, 1961).

The period of 1870 to 1920 saw rapid growth in the population of Bayonne. Between 1890 and 1910 Bayonne's population almost tripled (from 19,033 to 55,545). Railroads, proximity to the New York Harbor, and availability of land provided for the rapid industrial development of the city. J. D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, established in 1877, had the major impact on this development but other petroleum companies were an influence as well (Tidewater Oil 1878, Gulf Refinery 1901; Texaco, 1909, and Vacuum Oil, 1911). The previously Protestant-owned farmland was overwhelmed by Irish Catholic immigrants. The enormous late 19th - early 20th century industrial growth of Bayonne forged a virtually new physical environment destroying most of the pre-1875 features of the city.

Bayonne's growth in the first quarter of the 20th century was not without its difficulties for the Dutch Reformed Church. Originally settled by Dutch Protestants the city was quickly engulfed with Catholic and Jewish populations. As a result the Congregation of the Dutch Reformed Church dwindled. The church confronted the problem in 1945 with the statement "Our church confronts a problem in a changing community. For the number of Protestants in Bayonne, we are over churchd: 55% of the city's total population is made up of Roman Catholics, more than 15% Jewish and about 9% Protestant. That means about 6,000 Protestants, perhaps only half of these are of the white race. We have 16 white Protestant Churches... Merger must come if we are to survive... (Messrs. Pratt and Schadewald. Report of the Dutch Reformed Church of Bayonne, 2/1945).

In 1952 members of the First Reformed Church of Bayonne combined with two other churches in Bayonne forming the First Federated Church of Bayonne. The churches were the 1st and 3rd Reformed Churches and the Christ Presbyterian Church.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
 Name  
 Date entered

Continuation sheet First Reformed Dutch Church of Bergen Neck, Bayonne  
Hudson County, NJ Item number 9

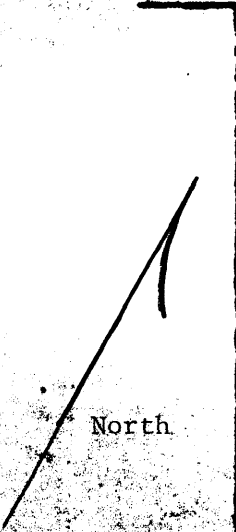
Page 1

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- Additional information found in Vreeland family records and the book, The People Called Methodist In Bayonne, by Rev. Wayne Jack Plumstead, Bayonne, New Jersey.
- Deed - Indenture - First Federated Church of Bayonne, Presbyterian and Reformed - 2/8/1956.
- Interviews and correspondence with Rev. Dodd, Pastor - Feb. 1980 to present.
- Mssrs. Pratt and Schadewald. Report of the Dutch Reformed Church of Bayonne, 2/1945.

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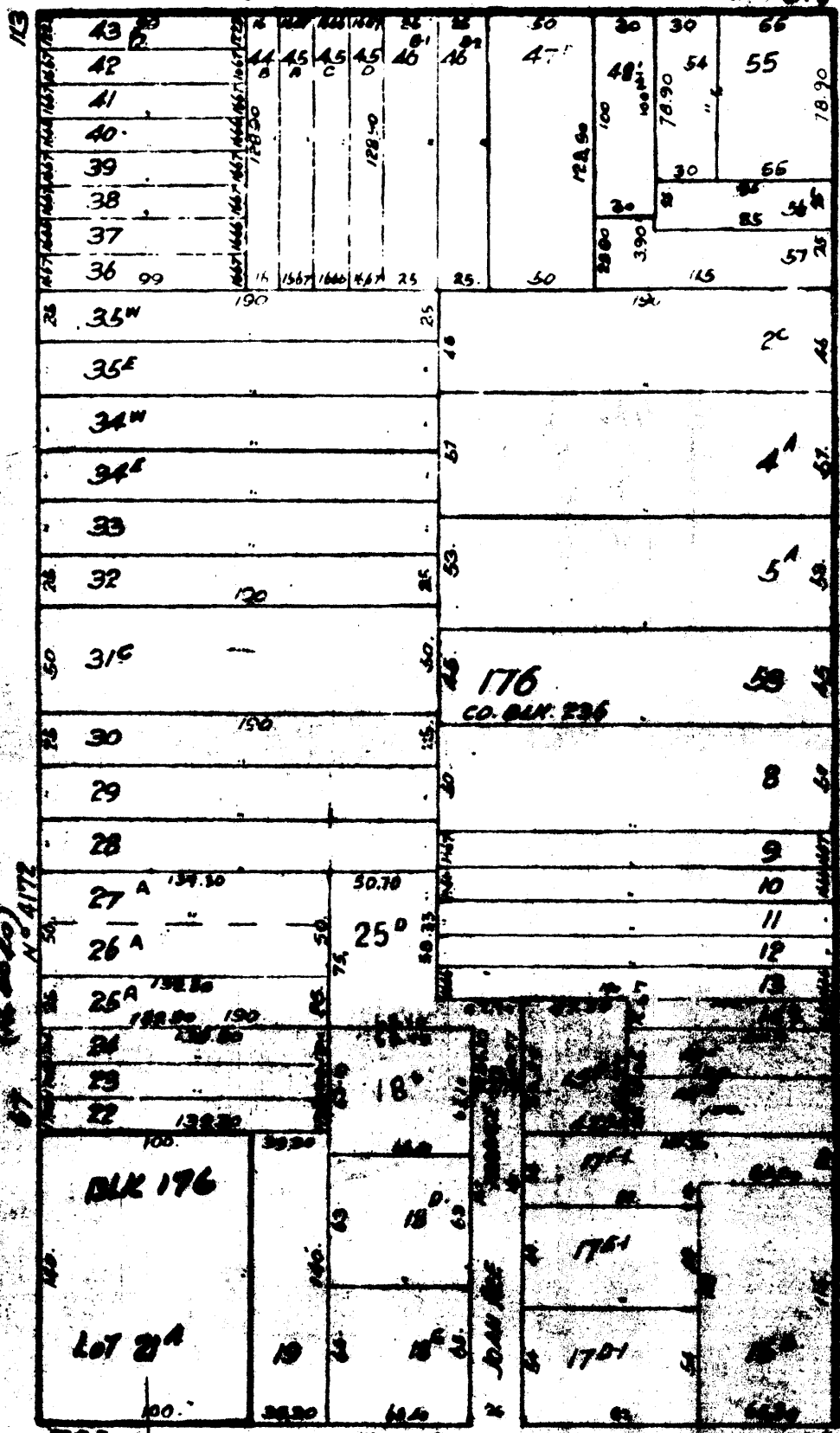
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41

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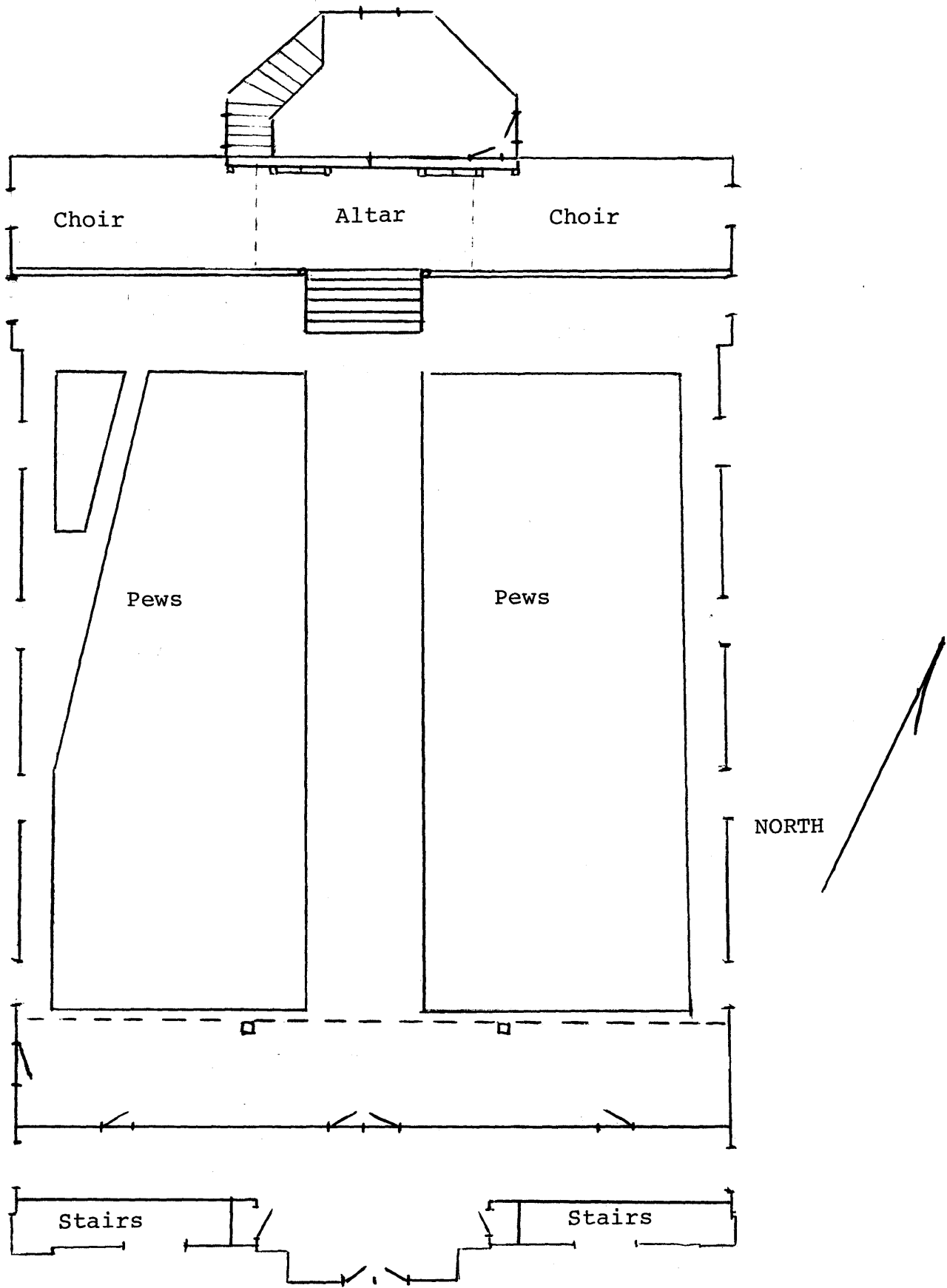
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AVENUE

REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH OF  
 BERGEN NECK (First Federated  
 Church of Bayonne)  
 Bayonne, Hudson County  
 New Jersey

Dutch Reformed Church of Bergen  
 Neck  
 Bayonne, Hudson County, NJ  
 Map Reference  
 Tax Map of Bayonne  
 Stein and Jaegen, Engineers and  
 Surveyors  
 1980  
 Scale: 1 inch equals 80 feet





REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH OF BERGEN NECK  
 (First Federated Church of Bayonne)  
 Bayonne, Hudson County  
 New Jersey

Terry Karschner  
 7/1981

MAIN FLOOR PLAN  
 (not to scale)