

967

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

JUL 27 2005

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 First Presbyterian Church

other name/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & town 120 East State Street  not for publication

city or town City of Trenton  vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Mercer code 021 zip code 08608

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 of certifying official/Title

Date

John S. Watson, Jr., Assistant Commissioner 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 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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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:)

Patrick Andrew

9/9/2005

**5 Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(check only one box)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
2		Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6 Function or Use**

**Historic Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Facility, Church School

FUNERARY/Cemetery

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

RELIGION/Religious Facility, Church School

FUNERARY/Cemetery

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7 Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY/Greek Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

foundation STONE/Brownstone

walls STUCCO

roof ROLLED ASPHALT / RAISED RIDGE TIN

other \_\_\_\_\_

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

First Presbyterian Church  
Name of Property

Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey  
City, County and State

**8. Description**

**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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

**9. National 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):**

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION

SOCIAL HISTORY

**Period of Significance**

1727 - 1955

**Significant Dates**

1712, 1727, 1834-1839, 1870

**Significant Persons**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Horatio Nelson Hotchkiss (Architect)

Hotchkiss & Thompson (Builders)

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository:

First Presbyterian Church Archives, Trenton

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

First Presbyterian Church of Trenton  
Name of Property

Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey  
City, County and State

**10 Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 0.741 acres

**UTM References**  
(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 520106 4452304  
Zone Easting Northing

2 / ////// //////  
Zone Easting Northing

3 / ////// //////  
Zone Easting Northing

4 / ////// //////  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**  
(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Property Tax No. Block 5-D, Lot 2

**Boundary Justification**  
(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

**11 Form Prepared By**

name/title Aleah Dacey, Julie P. Carmelich, and Tyreen Reuter  
organization ARCH<sup>2</sup>, Inc. date January, 2005  
street & number 16 Wernik Place telephone 732-906-8203  
city or town Metuchen state NJ zip code 08840-2422

**12 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)

**13 Property Owner**

name/title First Presbyterian Church of Trenton  
street & number 120 East State Street telephone 609-396-1712  
city or town City of Trenton state NJ zip code 08608

**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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

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### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The nominated property consists of the cemetery and present sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church, which stands at 122 East State Street in Block 5, Lot 2 (see Photograph #1). The present sanctuary, built in 1839, is the third church building to stand on this property. Earlier sanctuaries were built in 1726 and 1805 and were each demolished for its successor. The present building represents the Greek Revival style of architecture with its pedimented, temple-front *in antis*, highlighted by two Ionic columns flanked by Doric pilasters; Greek Revival door surrounds, and a Classical anthemion on the fence's cast iron posts.

The main block of the church is rectangular in plan, 104 feet long by 62 feet wide. The facades consist of a brownstone foundation, a raised basement level capped by a water table, and brick walls with a heavy coating of plaster. Centered above the gable is a 120 foot high octagonal steeple, the top of which dates to 1964. To the rear of the east elevation of the main block is a ca. 1950 one-story, four-bay, brick/cement block addition.

### EXTERIOR

#### *Setting*

The front of the church faces onto East State Street, a major commercial street. An 1853 wrought iron fence on a stone base encloses the front of the church property with the central of three gates opening to the church entrance (see Photographs #2 and 3). In the rear of the church and outside of the nominated property is a parking lot (see Photograph #4) that has access from East Hanover Street.

Cemetery plots surround the church to the east and west (see Photographs #5, #6, and #7) and the markers range in date from the 1730s to the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century in a variety of materials, shapes, types, and styles. The majority of markers consist of sandstone, marble, slate, or granite and are in the form of upright slabs (stelae) (see Photograph #8), footstones, table stones (see Photograph #9), tablets, and pedestals or obelisks on stepped or chamfered bases. The stelae, with or without plinths, exist in a variety of shapes, including rectangular, cambered, semi-circular without shoulders, and semi-circular with peaked, rounded, or flat shoulders. One particularly ornate pedestal stone in the west yard is surrounded with a cast iron picket fence (see Photograph #10). Disruption of the cemetery occurred in 1839-1840 when the second church was torn down and the third church erected, and in 1968 when the abovementioned parking lot was constructed. According to genealogical records, "a number of persons" originally buried in the cemetery were later moved to Riverview Cemetery (Raser 2000, 91). A list of burials that was compiled in 1911 prior to this removal included approximately 336 tombstones.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 2

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### *Steeple*

The current steeple has an octagonal drum, supporting an octagonal stage with louvered openings and eight freestanding fluted columns with ornamental capitals supporting a denticulated cornice (see Photograph #11). Above the cornice is a second octagonal drum, capped by an octagonal spire and a five-foot cross of gold anodized aluminum.

The base of the steeple is original to the building, but the portion above the cornice was added in 1964. The upper portion of the steeple had been structurally weakened by a hurricane in 1955 and was therefore removed in 1956. The base of the replacement portion is covered in a baked white enamel finish over a steel frame. The octagonal spire has an anodized finish, which simulates the appearance of weathered copper.

### *South Façade*

The church's main façade features a three-bay, temple-front design, highlighted by two 26-foot high, poured concrete, fluted Ionic columns (see Photographs #1 and #3) flanked by Doric pilasters. Sandstone steps lead to the main entrance into the church, which is recessed behind the columns and consists of a dramatic doorway with a large Greek Revival door surround framing a pair of wooden double-doors topped by two ranges of panels with matching detailing. The doors are built of mortise and tenon construction and contain a lock reused from the 1806 church (see Photograph #12). Additional paneled wooden double doors are located at the east and west ends of the recess (see Photograph #13). A marble tablet that reads "Formed 1712" (see Photograph #13) was transferred to its present location from the second church on the site and is considered to be a copy of the inscription found on the first church on this site.

### *East Elevation*

The east elevation (see Photograph #14) features two stories of four bays each. This façade is articulated by a stone stringer course above the basement level windows and an extension of the front façade's cornice and is flanked by two Doric pilasters. The basement level windows feature twelve-over-twelve double-hung sashes, while the first-story windows feature triple-hung, 24-pane sashes. The window frames are wood with a stone sill. A slight overhanging eave with a copper gutter system runs along the roofline.

A one-story, brick addition from circa 1950 projects from the east elevation at the northeast corner (see Photograph #5). An entry and covered porch project from the south wall of this addition. The remaining bays contain paired six-over-six sash windows. A stone stringer course separates the windows from a brick parapet. The north and east elevation of the addition are of cinder block and brick construction. An entry is located at the east elevation and four bays of paired sash windows are located along the north elevation.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 3

---

### *West elevation*

The west elevation is almost identical to the east elevation except there are doors instead of windows in the first and third bays of the basement level (see Photographs #15 and #16).

### *North elevation*

The main block of the north elevation is unadorned with the exception of the gable end pediment (see Photograph #17). Two projecting additions project to the rear. The first is a two-story, two-bay addition at what would be the east and center bays. This addition houses the interior vestry and mimics the main block's gable roof and pediment. A smaller one-story, hip roof addition projects from the northwest corner and features an entry on the west elevation and a large set of paired sash windows on the north elevation.

## INTERIOR

The interior of the church consists of a small ground floor vestibule that leads to the nave and provides stairway access to the balcony above the rear of the nave and the social hall in the basement level.

### *Ground Floor*

The church's main (south) entrance leads to a small, ground-floor vestibule (see Photograph #18). The floor of the vestibule is covered in ceramic tile and the walls and ceiling are plaster. At the east and west ends of the vestibule, slate stairs lead to the upper and lower stories. The stairs to the lower level have a simple railing; the stairs to the upper level are carpeted and have formal dark wood railings and newel posts (see Photograph #19).

### *Sanctuary*

The rectangular nave consists of a central aisle flanked by wooden pews and side aisles. At the foot of the nave's main aisle is the original baptismal font of carved white marble, and at the head of the main aisle is the communion table below the pulpit in the fashion of historic Presbyterian tradition. The remainder of the sanctuary is described in Ellis Derry's 1994 *Old and Historic Churches of New Jersey, Volume 2*:

The interior decoration is very impressive in its white and gold austerity. The pulpit and entire front of the Church is a repetition of the exterior front of the building featuring two great columns with flanking pilasters [see Photograph #20]. These columns are wood and have very ornate capitals of Corinthian design, finely carved in wood and covered with gold leaf. The entire pulpit is accentuated by contrasting sharp white and gold [see Photograph #21]. The rest of the interior is quite plain. The walls are plaster painted a dull cream color, and the ceiling is a dull tan. Running around the entire wall at the joining of the ceiling and wall is an entablature several

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 4

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feet in width [see Photograph #22]. Over the pulpit it is interrupted by the introduction of dentils and the extension of the member [see Photograph #20].

In the rear of the auditorium is a gallery reached by stairs at each corner [see Photograph #23]. This gallery is supported by four fluted columns of the Ionic style [with an unfluted pilaster at each sidewall] [see Photograph #24]. One of the most beautiful features of the interior is the organ above the gallery. In the original construction the organ was set out and mounted in a classic setting of arches with the entablature extended and dentils again introduced. The organ pipes were covered with gold leaf, set in three arches, which were divided by pilasters with Corinthian capitals again in gold leaf.

The ceiling features lighting fixtures that are large white glass bowls set in gold leaf pendants. The center of the ceiling has a large circular vent covered by an ornamental cover with radiating spokes surrounded by a delicately carved floral pattern. This is also done in gold leaf and is perhaps the most ornate decorative feature of the interior (see Photograph #24).

In 1973, the organ that had been added in 1870 was replaced by a three manual, 76 rank and 4,418 pipe instrument, built by Robert M. Turner, an organ builder from Hopewell, New Jersey (see Photograph #25). This organ is much larger than the 1870 organ and required the removal of the arches and Corinthian columns that surrounded the original organ. The organ is now flanked by latticework on each side.

The pews, which date to 1870, are made of Jersey pine with arms and a strip along the back of highly polished stained oak. The seats are cushioned and a ceramic shield-shaped plaque identifies the pew number (see Photographs #26 and #27).

### *Basement*

The basement level is accessed either by a set of stairs in the ground floor vestibule (see Photograph #18) or by the parking lot side door entrance. The basement holds the utilitarian spaces including the kitchen, cloakrooms, restrooms, administrative offices, and secular assembly room (see Photographs #28 and #29). A recent renovation revealed that some of the tombstones were left intact under the basement floor when the current building was constructed in 1839 (see Photograph #30).

Interior access to the one-story brick addition at the church's east elevation is accessed through the basement at the northeast end of the building. The interior of the addition holds another large public space that features a hardwood floor, plaster walls, and a drop ceiling (see Photograph #31).



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 1

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Presbyterian Church and Cemetery in the City of Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey are eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for their association with the political, educational, and religious development of Trenton and of New Jersey, from the early eighteenth century onward. In addition, the church building meets Criterion C as an excellent example of Greek Revival ecclesiastical architecture, and meets Criteria Consideration A for Religious Properties as a historic church significant for its architecture and its association with important historic religious and non-religious events.

Trenton, as a main stage stop between New York and Philadelphia, was a "center of life and trade in... Revolutionary times, as leading figures... passed through its streets."<sup>1</sup> The City played a significant role in the early history of the nation, as "the Continental Congress met in the town in post war days, [and] for a time it was favored for the permanent national capital, [and] it was selected as the site for the capital of the State."<sup>2</sup> Throughout these significant events in Trenton and New Jersey's history, the First Presbyterian Church served as a gathering place for decision-makers, a site of victory celebrations, and a final resting place for many of those who fought for independence. The pastors of the First Presbyterian Church were contributors to the educational, social, and political development of New Jersey – including four of its pastors who also served as trustees of Princeton University. Four of the church's ministers have been moderators of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, the "highest office... in the church." Members of the church, including those buried in the cemetery, have been mayors, community leaders, activists, revolutionaries, early teachers and doctors, and soldiers – the "congregation... included members of every major occupation group in Trenton

In a 1994 study of New Jersey churches built prior to the Civil War, the First Presbyterian Church was described as "... a church that symbolizes the spirit of the founding fathers of this country... [with] the same feeling of grandeur and antiquity in First Church that there is in the older cathedrals and parish churches of the Old World."<sup>3</sup> After more than one hundred years, the church remains a gathering place for those seeking shelter, guidance, and enlightenment.

## EARLY AMERICAN PRESBYTERIANISM

Presbyterianism is a system of church government organized by representative assemblies, called presbyteries, which follow a form of Protestantism initiated by the sixteenth century reformer John Calvin.<sup>3</sup> "Presbyterian" comes from the Greek word *presbyteros*, or "elder;" this serves as the foundation for individual congregational assembly.

The first presbytery of the colonies, that of Philadelphia, was formed by 1705 and in 1706 had eight ministers to organize and offer the right to worship, preach, teach, and administer sacraments.<sup>4</sup> The first synod (regional governing body consisting of several presbyteries) in the United States, also of Philadelphia, was organized in 1716 in response to growth in immigration and an increasing number of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 2

congregants. This led the American Presbyterians to develop their own indigenous leadership and institutions, and eventually their own internal conflicts, separate from that of the Anglican church.<sup>5</sup>

Each particular church was governed by a representative group of elders, deacons, and trustees, which later was modified and expounded as Presbyterianism grew and split in the United States.<sup>6</sup> Ministers were ordained through the approval of the synod and subscription to the traditional Westminster Confession of Faith.<sup>7</sup>

Presbyterian worship in the Trenton area began in the outskirts with early Dutch settlers, at Maidenhead (Lawrenceville) and Hopewell (Ewing/Pennington). Referred to by John Hall in his 1859 *History of the Presbyterian Church in Trenton, New Jersey* as the "cradle of Presbyterianism in America," the Trenton area developed a concentration of Scottish and Irish Presbyterian immigrants as a result of their persecution under King James II in the late 1600s.<sup>8</sup> Without formal houses of worship, they met with itinerant ministers in schools or private homes; the first lot deeded for the erection of a church was at Maidenhead in 1698.<sup>9</sup>

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Settlement in Trenton began at the "Falls of the Delaware" when English Quaker Mahlon Stacy arrived and built the first house and gristmill by 1679.<sup>10</sup> As settlement grew, demand increased for a place of Presbyterian worship closer to Trenton than the church at Ewing.<sup>11</sup> In 1712, the parent congregation of Trenton Presbyterians formally organized from members of the church at Ewing with the intent to build a center of worship nearer to the Assanpink Creek, while remaining associated with the other nearby congregations.<sup>12</sup> In 1714, William Trent, after whom the area would be named, bought 800 acres of Stacy's land on both sides of the Assanpink Creek. The Assanpink was also made the southern boundary of Hunterdon County in 1714. When Hopewell was divided in 1719, the lower portion (including present-day Ewing) became the Township of Trenton.<sup>13</sup> Trenton Township's boundaries were recorded in 1720 as part of Hunterdon County, the same year it became the seat of the county court (and later the Supreme Court in 1724).<sup>14</sup>

The plot of ground on Second (now State) Street where the church was built was deeded to several prominent Trenton citizens in 1727 for religious use. The deed from Enoch Andrus (or Andrews) to John Porterfield, Daniel Howell, Richard Scudder, Alexander Lockhart, William Yard, William Hoff, John Severns, and Joseph Yard conveyed "a certain piece or lot of land lying on the north side of Second Street [now State] that goes to the iron-works in Trenton, containing in length 150 feet and in breadth 150 feet."<sup>15</sup> Andrus had received the land from Joshua Anderson in 1722; Anderson had inherited it from Hugh Standland in 1707. Standland received the land from Mahlon Stacy, one of the original settlers of the Trenton area, in 1684. Enoch Andrus and Joshua Anderson were both active Presbyterians who were involved in the church at Maidenhead and were integral to the establishment of the Trenton church.<sup>16</sup> The lot later expanded when Moore Furman, then Sheriff of Hunterdon County and later Trenton's first mayor, conveyed an additional eighty feet at the front of the lot to the church

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 3

trustees in 1759. A parsonage was purchased by the church on Third (now Hanover) Street in 1762.<sup>17</sup> In 1763, Joseph Yard, the sole survivor of the previous joint tenants, conveyed the Andrus lot to the "Trustees of the Presbyterian Church of Trenton, for the special uses and trust following...to be and remain forever the use of public worship and burial-place for the Presbyterian congregation of Trenton forever."<sup>18</sup>

Under the petition of Rev. David Cowell, incorporation was officially made of the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church of Trenton in 1756 by "George the second...of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith etc."<sup>19</sup> The incorporation was undertaken in order for the trustees to:

...take grants of lands and chattels, thereby to enable the petitioners to erect and repair publick buildings for the worship of God And for the maintenance of the ministry of their Church And...to sell and grant the same under a publick seal for the uses aforesaid; and that the same trustees may plead and be impleaded in any suit touching the premises and have perpetual succession [*sic*].<sup>20</sup>

*First House of Worship of the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton*

Known as the "old stone church," the first edifice was constructed ca. 1727 in the southwest corner of the lot. When it was constructed, it was also the first dedicated house of worship within Trent's original town plan, predating those later buildings constructed by denominations whose congregations were established in the area even before the Presbyterians. As described by Dr. Francis Armstrong Ewing, first vice-president of the Mercer County Component Medical Society and son of Chief Justice Ewing for whom the town of Ewing is named, the church:

...fronted south on Second Street (now State,) standing a little back from the line of the street, and having a large flat stone before the door. Its front presented in the centre a large door-way, closed by two half-doors, on each side of which was a pretty large window, square-headed, as was the door; and probably over the door another window, though on this point there is a difference of recollection. The stones of the building, free of wash or plaster, showed only their native hue, or that acquired by long exposure to the weather. The roof, with gables to the street, was of the curb or double-pitched kind [i.e., a gambrel roof], and was covered with shingles, each neatly rounded or scalloped. Entering the front door, a middle aisle, floored with wood, led towards the pulpit, which was at the opposite or north end. The first object reached was a settle, occupied during service by the sexton. Raised one step from the floor, was an enclosed space with desk in front, where stood the minister while administering the sacraments or hearing the catechism. Behind and above was the pulpit, of wood, unpainted, as was all the woodwork in the building, except the ceiling, having a sound-board over it, fastened against the rear wall. In this wall, on each side of the pulpit, was a window corresponding to those in front. The pulpit-stairs rose from the pastor's pew, which was against the rear wall on the east side of the pulpit. A gallery ran round the front and two sides, the stairs to which rose in the front corners. Between the front door and these

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 4

corner stairs were two square pews on each side, of unequal size, over the one of which, nearest the stairs, was one of the front windows. Before these pews was a cross aisle, leading to the stairs and to the side aisles. These were narrower than the middle one, and led to the north wall. All the pews against the walls were square, and, like all the others, had the usual high, straight backs of the time. Sitting in church was not then the easy, cushioned affair of modern days. Two square pews against the rear wall; four on each side, the fourth from the front being in the corner, and the four on the front completed the number of fourteen. The rest of the floor was occupied by narrow pews or slips, opening into the side and middle aisles. The ceiling was wooden, curved in four ways (the lines of junction rising from the corners,) and painted in a sort of clouded style, blue and white, intended to represent the sky and clouds, if the childish impressions of one of my informants have not thus mistaken the results of time and dampness.

...In the pews of the old church...were gathered every Sabbath...the principal families of that day...There were Hunt and Milnor, the leading merchants of their time...[t]here was Leake, learned in the law...Smith, eminent as a physician and judge; Belleville, from France, at the head of the medical profession, and esteemed by the highest authorities in the neighboring cities; the elder Judge Ewing; and besides these, the Gordons, Ryalls, Haydens, Calhouns, Yards, Moores, Collins, Chambers, Woolseys...<sup>21</sup>

In a descriptive drawing made of the church from John Halls' 1859 *History of the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton, N.J.: From the Settlement of the Town*, it appears as a gambrel-roofed, three-bay, stone building with 15/15 double hung sash windows and paneled doors at a central entry below a projected lintel.<sup>22</sup>

*Second House of Worship of the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton*

By the end of the eighteenth century, having suffered through the war and Hessian encampment, the Presbyterian Church was in dire need of repair. A subscription for repairs had been in place since 1769 but was never implemented.<sup>23</sup> In May 1804, a subscription drive commenced to raise funds for the construction of a replacement church, with Moore Furman and Aaron D. Woodruff, Trenton's first and second mayors, appointed to obtain a plan for the new building.<sup>24</sup> In late 1804, the first church was demolished and on April 15, 1805 the cornerstone of the second church was laid. While the new church was being constructed, Rev. Armstrong was permitted to hold services at the nearby Episcopal Church, St. Michael's.<sup>25</sup> The relationship between the two parishes was extremely cordial, as they often rotated services when one was without a minister.<sup>26</sup>

Dr. Francis A. Ewing described the second church as having:

... walls...carried to a height which would now be thought excessive. Its galleries were supported by lofty columns and in consequence, its pulpit was so high as sometimes to threaten dizziness to the preacher's head. Above the gallery the vaulted ceiling afforded almost enough room for another church. It had its tower, its belfry and bell still sweet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 5

and melodious, its spire which had it been proportioned in height to the tower supporting it, would have ascended needle-like almost to the clouds. With all its architectural defects, however, it was a fine old building well adapted to the purpose of speaking and hearing; filled an important office, both to the congregation and on public occasions; stood for years the chief landmark to miles of surrounding country and at last resisted sternly the efforts of its destroyers. Its site, on the southwest corner of the graveyard, is well defined by the old graves and tombs clustered close to its northern and eastern sides, and is only part of the ground divided into burial lots.<sup>27</sup>

John O. Raum, a nineteenth century historian, further describes the second church as:

...a much larger and more costly edifice than the old church. It occupied the same spot of ground. The new edifice was built of brick, in the year above named [1805]. It was placed about twenty feet back from the street, with a tower in the center, and surmounted by a steeple, in the belfry of which hung the same bell now in the steeple of the [third] First Presbyterian Church...The city clock was also placed in the steeple of the old [second] church...

The entrance to this church was by double doors, placed on each side of the brick tower. The entrance to the tower was by a door opening from the street, and located on the east side of the same. The pulpit was placed against the tower, and the congregation sat facing the door. The galleries were extended by an open, winding staircase, on the east and west side of the church, and near the doors...This church being the largest building in the city, was in constant requisition for public purposes. Fourth of July celebrations, temperance meetings, &c., were usually held there.<sup>28</sup>

Services were first held in the forty-eight- by sixty-foot brick church on August 17, 1806, at which time it was the largest building in Trenton. Materials reused from the first church included the bell in the belfry and the clock at the cupola atop the tower. The total construction cost was \$10,820.<sup>29</sup> The church contained seventy-two pews on the main floor that were rented annually, and thirty-six pews in the gallery that were free and had "one side...reserved for colored persons."<sup>30</sup> The pew rental system continued over the next one hundred and thirty-nine years. New Jersey Governor Joseph Bloomfield lived in Trenton during his term and was offered the first choice of a pew in the new Presbyterian Church.<sup>31</sup>

Retrospective drawings recalling the second church depict it as a three-bay, gambrel roof building with a projecting center bay, side entries, and multi-paneled sash windows. The sides bays of the attic story feature quarter-round casement windows, and the steeple features louvered shutters and a pointed crown.

*Third and Present House of Worship of the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton*

By 1836, the congregation began considering plans to build a third church. The existing building had been struck by lightning in 1828, fallen into general disrepair, and, despite its size, could no longer

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 6

accommodate the size of the congregation.<sup>32</sup> Rev. Yeomans recounted that “[t]he congregation felt the awakening enterprise of their venerable city, and the moment the business of the place show[ed] signs of revival, they were ready to conduct the motion into their measures for religious improvement.”<sup>33</sup>

The committee appointed to raise funds for the erection of a new church had collected over \$10,000 by 1838.<sup>34</sup> That same year the old edifice was razed, and the ground was filled and leveled. On January 18, 1839, the *Emporium and True American* newspaper published a “Notice to Builders” soliciting proposals for the construction of the new church from the building committee: Benjamin Fish, Thomas J. Stryker, Armitage Green, C. Blackfan, J. S. Scudder, and S. Evans. Again, services were held at St. Michael’s during church construction.

John O. Raum’s 1871’s *History of the City of Trenton* lists “Messrs. Hotchkiss & Thompson of New Haven, CT.” as the builders selected for the constructions of the new church, and Horatio Nelson Hotchkiss signed the building contract as the architect. The building contract was also signed by Pastor John W. Yeomans, Trenton Mayor Charles Borroughs, New Jersey Governor William Pennington, and United States President Martin Van Buren.

According to Edward Atwater’s 1877 *History of the City of New Haven*, Horatio Nelson Hotchkiss was a New Haven builder who was initially associated with Ira Atwater, and then later with Charles Thompson. While with Atwater, Hotchkiss worked on a few projects for the Hillhouse Family in New Haven, including the 1836 Greek Revival Mary Prichard House on Hillhouse Avenue, designed by Alexander Jackson Davis.<sup>35</sup> With Thompson, Hotchkiss was involved with building the First Presbyterian Church, as well as seven houses, in Trenton during a period of fifteen months.<sup>36</sup> Some of these houses are depicted in a lithograph titled “A View of Park-Row at Trenton, N.J. / Embracing Six New cottages, erected by N. Hotchkiss and C. Thompson... The cottages designed by N. Hotchkiss and H. Austin of New-Haven, Conn.”<sup>37</sup> “H. Austin” refers to the well-known New Haven architect Henry Austin, who is thought to have designed houses in the fashionable Wooster Square neighborhood of New Haven for both Hotchkiss and William Lewis, with whom he was partners in a planing mill after his return to New Haven.<sup>38</sup> New Haven Colony Historical Society records indicate that Horatio Nelson Hotchkiss appears in the 1840 New Haven directory both individually and as with the company of “Rich & Hotchkiss,” who were listed as “lumbar dealers, general contractors, and manufacturers of blinds and shades”.<sup>39</sup>

The cornerstone of the third First Presbyterian Church was laid on May 2, 1839. To best utilize the space, the new 182’ x 70’ church was constructed in the center of the lot.<sup>40</sup> Graves were disrupted, tombstones were adapted as exterior tiles, and a plaque was installed noting the names of those whose tombs were razed.<sup>41</sup> A large organ was manufactured by Holbrook & Ware of Massachusetts specifically for the church.<sup>42</sup> The total cost of the church, which seated 900, was \$21,000.00. Part of this cost was subsidized by the reuse of materials from the first two churches, including the base of local sandstone.<sup>43</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 7

While the First Presbyterian Church is one the finest examples of a Greek Revival church in New Jersey, there are other examples of this execution of the style, some of which are also in the central portion of the state. Although most post-date the Trenton Church, earlier examples featuring pedimented porticos and columns *in antis* are found in the 1831 Old First Church in Middletown (Monmouth County) and the 1836-1838 First Presbyterian Church of Princeton (Mercer County).<sup>44</sup> Later examples with the same featured elements include the 1839 First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury (Middlesex County), the 1843 First Reformed Church of Griggstown in Montgomery Township (Somerset County), the 1843 Mount Holly Baptist Church (Burlington County), the 1846 South Bound Brook Reformed Church (Somerset County), the 1851 First Congregational Church of Chester (Morris County), the 1851 Pluckemin Presbyterian Church (Somerset County), and the 1826 Lamington Presbyterian Church (Somerset County), which underwent its Greek Revival renovations in 1854.<sup>45</sup>

The American Greek Revival style found in these New Jersey churches has its roots in the European movement that preceded it nearly a century before. The contributions of the ancient Greeks in the fields of art and architecture were re-examined during the mid-eighteenth century as the nascent science of archaeology literally began to uncover the misunderstood ancient race.<sup>46</sup> This burgeoning appreciation for the Greek arts, which were depicted as geometric, austere, and above all, rational, stood in contrast to the more widely studied ancient Roman arts. The American Greek Revival, which was at the height of its popularity in the United States roughly between 1820 and 1860, can be seen in many ways as an extension of the European aesthetic, but with a considerably different philosophy, as Americans embraced this style at a time when the newly independent country was eager to define its cultural identity.

Aesthetically, the character defining features of the Greek Revival style included fluted columns with Doric or Ionic capitals, low-pitched roofs, corner pilasters, and accentuated pediments, which provided an allusion to the democratic virtues of the ancient Greek city-states.<sup>47</sup> This style was "widely adopted by scores of churches in New Jersey...Among the most important churches in the Greek Revival mode [is]...the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton (1839)."<sup>48</sup> American ecclesiastical buildings adapted the style and maintained democratic principles by designing Greek Revival churches that were larger (thus allowing for more members), lighter, and less mired in religious tradition than their European and Catholic counterparts.

The characteristics of the Greek Revival style are best displayed at the exterior and the interior sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church. The façade of the church is reminiscent of a Greek temple, as the large, fluted columns supporting the gable-end pediment can be traced to Greek influences. The tall triple-hung sashes at the east and west elevations of the church follow the style's tradition of re-emphasizing the importance of preaching rather than sacrament. Greek Revival details are best seen in the church interior in the sanctuary, where the altar and pulpit of the Church are a repetition of the front of the exterior of the building, featuring two great columns with flanking pilasters. Following the Greek tradition of austerity, the rest of the interior is relatively plain except for an entablature running along the wall and a gallery supported by Ionic columns.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 8

The use of the Greek Revival style in ecclesiastical architecture lost favor quickly and was seldom seen in new construction after the early 1850s. As a surviving example of a style that had such an influential impact in the early years of the United States, the First Presbyterian Church is significant as the embodiment of this important style.

Later renovations to the First Presbyterian Church include the addition of the wrought iron fence, front stone walkway, interior gas lighting, and painting of the walls in 1863.<sup>49</sup> The total cost of these repairs was \$3,400, with the congregation having to worship at the Third Presbyterian Church until they were completed.<sup>50</sup> In 1870, the church was painted and frescoed, new pews were installed, a small room at the back of the pulpit was added, and the organ was replaced by Erben of New York.<sup>51</sup>

Another manse, or parsonage, was purchased in 1925 on Richey Place.<sup>52</sup> A 1955 hurricane weakened the steeple, which was removed in 1956 and replaced in 1964. A new manse was purchased on Parkway Avenue in 1956. The foundation of the church and the floor of the Sunday school room were reinforced in 1958.<sup>53</sup> Property on East Hanover Street was purchased in 1959 for future church use.<sup>54</sup> In 1968, a twenty-car parking lot was constructed at the rear of the church lot (along Hanover Street) which covered over some of the original graveyard.<sup>55</sup> Turner & Associates of Hopewell installed a new organ in 1973.<sup>56</sup> In the mid 1980s, the exterior was renovated at a cost of over \$100,000 with the help of Mr. Charles I. Newman, a specialist in the preservation of masonry: loose paint was removed; wire mesh reinforcing was implemented; Sonneborn Hydrocide Super Colorcoat was added; the brownstone was cleaned; mortar joints were rejoined; and the entrance steps were realigned.<sup>57</sup>

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CLERGY**

Early Presbyterians in the province then known as East Jersey had been meeting with itinerant ministers in schools or private homes when lots were deeded for the erection of religious center: Maidenhead in 1698, Hopewell (Pennington) in 1703, and Hopewell (Ewing) in 1709 (initially called "Trenton First Church").<sup>58</sup> Rev. Robert Orr served as the first permanent pastor of all three churches from 1715-1720 and was followed by Rev. Moses Dickinson for the next few years. After several years without a permanent minister, the three congregations of the Trenton area were served by Rev. Joseph Morgan from 1729 to 1737.<sup>59</sup>

The first permanent minister of the Trenton Presbyterians, which also included the church in Ewing, was Rev. David Cowell. When Rev. Cowell was called in May, 1736, he "...was then a licentiate, aged thirty-two, and he had graduated at Harvard four years previously. He accepted the call, and was ordained on the 2d of the November following."<sup>60</sup>

Rev. Cowell became involved in a theological controversy with Rev. Gilbert Tennent which took place throughout the English colonies from the period of ca. 1738 to 1758.<sup>61</sup> This religious controversy, which became known as the "Great Schism" or "Great Awakening,"<sup>62</sup> begot social and political consequences such as missionary activity, movement against slavery, and establishment of institutions



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 9

---

of higher education.<sup>63</sup> Both sides adhered to the same Presbyterian-Calvinist beliefs, but disagreed on the means of theological practice. Rev. Cowell became a part of the "Old Side" (or "Old Light"), which believed that orthodox theology was more important than religious experience, while Rev. Tennent became a leader of the "New Side" (or "New Light"), which believed a pious and moral lifestyle took precedence over strict doctrine.<sup>64</sup> The Old Side eventually charged the New Side with disregarding acts of synod, denying authority of church courts, and departing from the historic Calvinism standards.<sup>65</sup>

The Presbytery of New Brunswick was formed under a new synod by the New Side in 1741, and in 1743, Rev. Cowell was made moderator by the old synod in an attempted reconciliation.<sup>66</sup> In 1749, Rev. Cowell was appointed one of nine members of a commission to represent the Old Side at a settlement meeting that was held in Trenton with Rev. Cowell presiding.<sup>67</sup> Negotiations were delayed until 1755, when an additional meeting was held in Philadelphia, with Rev. Cowell again present as one of the seven representatives of the Old Side. In 1757, Rev. Cowell attended another joint conference in Trenton. In 1758, he was on the Commission of the synod when the Old Side and the New Side reconciled and united as the Synod of New York and Philadelphia.<sup>68</sup>

When Rev. Cowell died in 1760, he had:

...served this congregation and the old one during twenty-four years...during this time his sphere of usefulness was not limited to his pastorate. He was an active and efficient member of Presbyteries and Synods, and was also closely identified with the establishment of the college at Princeton, of which he was at one time the temporary president. His entire energies were devoted to the advancement of religion and education. His remains repose in the church yard at Trenton, a few feet from the western wall of the church. The spot is designated by a monument with an appropriate inscription, erected by the congregation.<sup>69</sup>

Rev. Cowell was replaced by William Kirkpatrick in 1761. Rev. Kirkpatrick, who served until 1766, spent much of his pastorate elsewhere and served only as stated supply, not a completely installed minister.<sup>70</sup> Like Rev. Cowell, he later became a trustee of the College of New Jersey.

Trenton did not have another permanent minister until Rev. Elihu Spencer was called in 1769. Rev. Spencer became a trustee, as well as president of the Board of Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church, in 1770. From 1752 to his death in 1784, he was also a trustee of the College of New Jersey.<sup>71</sup>

In 1784, Rev. Spencer died and by the following year a call was made to Rev. James Francis Armstrong.<sup>72</sup> In 1787, Rev. Armstrong accepted and assisted the church in establishing a new charter to supersede that of King George II in 1756.<sup>73</sup> This post-Revolutionary incorporation transferred the rights of the trustees initially established in England to continue under the new United States government.

Rev. James Francis Armstrong was a key figure, along with John Witherspoon (Princeton's sixth president, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and leading member of the Continental Congress),

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 10

in the 1788 restructuring of the church that created the Synod of New Jersey.<sup>74</sup> The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA) was then formed to adopt a constitution that included a form of government and a directory of worship.

In the early 1800s, Rev. Armstrong continued to play a strong role in the development of American Presbyterianism. He was a trustee of the College of New Jersey beginning in 1799, helped establish and develop the discourse of the first American Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Princeton, and was appointed moderator by the General Assembly.<sup>75</sup> Rev. Armstrong was also admired by George Washington for his inspirational sermons. Upon his death in 1816, Rev. Armstrong was buried in the church cemetery.

After Armstrong's death, Rev. Samuel Blanchard How was called and served as pastor until 1821. During his pastorate he was on the committee to prepare a constitution for the New Jersey Colonization Society, which was likely an off-shoot of the American Colonization Society that was founded in 1816 by a Presbyterian minister from Basking Ridge to assist free black people in emigrating to Africa.<sup>76</sup> Rev. How also aided in the establishment of a savings bank, a library, and several other local organizations.<sup>77</sup> Rev. How was followed by a period of short-term ministers, the first of whom was Rev. William Jessup Armstrong, who served only for a year. In 1827, Rev. John Smith was installed and served for two years.<sup>78</sup> Rev. James Waddel Alexander's pastorate lasted from 1829 to 1832. The next long-term minister was Rev. John William Yeomans, who was installed in 1834 and served until his 1841 appointment as president of Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania.

The next pastor was the Rev. John Hall, who was installed in 1841 and served until 1884. From 1884 until his death in 1894, Rev. Hall served as pastor-emeritus. He also served as a guest lecturer at the Princeton Theological Seminary, and published numerous papers, discourses, articles, and books on history, Trenton, Presbyterianism, childhood, and theology.<sup>79</sup> His *History of the [First] Presbyterian Church* was "highly regarded for its illuminating presentation of early church progress as well as for its accurate reference to many secular incidents in Trenton's early history."<sup>80</sup>

Several other Presbyterian churches in Trenton were established as a result of the influence of Rev. John Hall while pastor of the First Presbyterian Church.<sup>81</sup> In 1842, the Second Presbyterian Church was established by a committee of the presbytery, which included Rev. Hall.<sup>82</sup> The Third Presbyterian Church was formed in 1848, and the Fourth Presbyterian Church was formed in 1858.<sup>83</sup> The Fifth Presbyterian Church was organized in 1874, the Prospect Street Presbyterian Church in 1875, and the East Trenton Presbyterian Church in 1887/8.<sup>84</sup>

In addition to increasing the number of Presbyterian churches in Trenton, Rev. Hall was influential in supporting other denominations. A letter sent in 1845 by Rev. Hall to Dr. Christian R. Demme, leader of the oldest Lutheran ministry in the United States, requested a spiritual leader for the many German immigrants in Trenton; a pastor was finally sent three years later and the German Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church was incorporated in 1856.<sup>85</sup> In 1880, Rev. Hall endeavored to establish a school and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 11

---

church for emancipated slaves in Carthage, North Carolina.<sup>86</sup> Dayton Academy and John Hall Presbyterian Church were still in operation as of 2000.

Rev. John Dixon succeeded Rev. Hall, serving as pastor until 1899.<sup>87</sup> He was followed by Rev. Lewis Seymour Mudge, who served from 1899 to 1901. During his pastorate, the Westminster and Immanuel Presbyterian Churches were established in Trenton.<sup>88</sup>

Rev. Henry Collin Minton served from 1902 to 1918. In 1911, the Pilgrim Presbyterian Church was established on South Broad Street, and in 1914, the Mt. Carmel Presbyterian Church was established on Brunswick Avenue.<sup>89</sup> In 1917, during Minton's pastorate, a monument was erected by the Presbytery of New Brunswick to Rev. John Rosborough, who was martyred in 1777 during the Revolutionary War.<sup>90</sup> Rosborough was the first clerical martyr of the Revolution, having been murdered near the Assanpink Creek by Hessians after his surrender and later buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery.<sup>91</sup>

Rev. Peter K. Emmons then assumed the pastorate from 1919 until 1927, during which time he was also a member of the board of trustees of Princeton Theological Seminary, a member of the Permanent Judicial Commission of the General Assembly, and district governor of the Thirty-sixth District Rotary International.<sup>92</sup>

Rev. Edward Allen Morris served from 1930 to 1954, and he implemented total racial integration, open house for servicemen during the war, abolition of the pew rental system, and special services for inner city children.<sup>93</sup> The church was designated as the "Capitol Church of the Synod of New Jersey" by the Presbyterian Synod on October 25, 1949.<sup>94</sup> Rev. Donald H. Gard, a professor at the Princeton Theological Seminary, served as pastor from 1955 to 1959.<sup>95</sup> Rev. Andrew M. Sebben served from 1959 to 1979, followed by Rev. John Wiley Nelson. The 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Presbyterian church in the Trenton area (dating to the 1712 Ewing church) was celebrated in 1962 at the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton, with a service that followed the original 1700s order of service and a display of historical relics and documents, including the original 1700s sacramental flagon used in communion services.<sup>96</sup>

When Rev. Barbara North was ordained and installed as associate pastor in 1975, she was the first female pastor in the church. Rev. John R. Allen has served from 1999 to the present (2004). In 2000, the church entered into a revisioning process.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 12

## REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Rev. Dr. Elihu Spencer "played a significant part, along with many members of the church, in the struggle for independence...during the stormy years of the Revolution."<sup>97</sup> In 1775, Rev. Spencer traveled on behalf of the Continental Congress to the south in order to garner support for the Revolutionary movement. Upon his return to Trenton, Rev. Spencer was commissioned as a chaplain. He was the first chaplain to officiate the daily prayer at the Provincial Congress of New Jersey, which sat from October 4-28, 1775.<sup>117</sup> At this time, Presbyterians had the largest number of congregations of all of the religions in New Jersey.<sup>118</sup> Rev. Spencer's involvement in the Revolutionary War led to British forces setting a bounty on his head. With this bounty, he was forced to flee in the night as the British and Hessian forces advanced towards Trenton in December 1776.<sup>119</sup>

The two Revolutionary battles fought by Washington's army in Trenton during the 1776-1777 campaign were integral to the American success in the war. The first of these, the first Battle of Trenton, was reportedly in part precipitated by the actions of a trustee of the First Presbyterian Church, Abraham Hunt. Hessian leader Colonel Johann Gottlieb Rahl was a guest at Hunt's home for a late supper on Christmas, 1776 and it was this distraction which supposedly led to his being unprepared for Washington's attack early the next day.<sup>98</sup> Rahl (or Rall) was the senior commanding officer of the brigade, which included three regiments of Hessian infantry<sup>99</sup> and when the Continental army attacked that morning, Rahl was mortally wounded.<sup>100</sup> As Rahl's Lieutenant, Carl Andreas Kinen, recounted, "he...lies buried in...the graveyard of the Presbyterian Church...the Americans will hereafter set up a stone above [his] grave with this inscription: 'Here lies Colonel Rahl; all is over with him.'"<sup>101</sup> Rahl's grave, like many of the graves of his Hessian soldiers also buried in the cemetery, was never marked.

This December 26, 1776 victory denoted a turning point of the Revolution, rallying the disaffected New Jersey, taking over an English stronghold, reviving the faith of the army, and "sav[ing] the Confederation."<sup>102</sup> The second Battle of Trenton began when British forces led by General Lord Charles Cornwallis began the march from Princeton to Trenton on January 2, 1777.<sup>103</sup> Washington and his troops prevented the British from crossing the bridge over the Assanpink, which forced the British to eventually retreat.<sup>104</sup> As a member of the Continental army recounted, "had the army of Cornwallis, within that space have crossed the bridge or forded the creek, unless a miracle intervened, there would have been an end of the American army."<sup>105</sup> Eighteenth century historic maps show the church at the center of conflict during the first battle. One sketch also identifies the church grounds as being used for a makeshift Hessian hospital.

Rev. Spencer was made the official gunsmith of the Committee of Safety and also ran a successful brass and silversmith shop throughout the Revolution.<sup>106</sup> In 1777 John Adams visited Rev. Spencer and Samuel Tucker, and also attended services.<sup>107</sup> A celebration was held in 1781 after the defeat of Cornwallis, with the governor, Council, Assembly, and many Trenton citizens in attendance. It concluded with a procession to the Presbyterian Church and a sermon by Rev. Spencer.<sup>108</sup> A similar

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 13

---

celebration was held in 1783, with Rev. Spencer again officiating. "The most deeply committed patriots were found in the Calvinist groups...the Presbyterians led the way."<sup>109</sup>

When the Legislature of New Jersey appointed commissioners in 1781 to estimate the damage caused by the war, the Presbyterian Church estimated their losses at £80 from injury to "303 feet of board fence...around the burying ground; 11 panel posts and a rail fence; 140 panes of glass; large gates, hooks and hinges; a silk damask curtain and hangings; a silver can with two handles, and large plate; damages done to the parsonage house [on Hanover Street at the rear of the lot] while an Hessian hospital; 1400 feet of board stripped off the stable; 310 feet board fence...round the parsonage garden; 2 large front gates, hooks and hinges; 1 well-curb, bucket and chain; 1 table cloth and about ten yards diaper."<sup>110</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 14**THE CHURCH'S INVOLVEMENT IN EARLY EDUCATION**

Rev. Cowell was a significant figure in the establishment of Princeton University. In 1746, the College of New Jersey (later Princeton University) was chartered by the Synod of New York and established in Elizabeth. The college grew out of the tradition of Presbyterian "academies," institutions of higher education that included several levels of instruction and were under the direction of one minister.<sup>111</sup> Its eight pupils then moved to Newark, to be led by Rev. Aaron Burr, Sr.<sup>112</sup> A larger charter was obtained in 1748, with Rev. Cowell named as a trustee even though he belonged to the Synod of Philadelphia; he was the only member of the Old Side to support the new college. During the first years of the college's inception, Burr was in frequent contact with Rev. Cowell and often solicited his advice.<sup>113</sup>

In 1753, Rev. Samuel Davies and Rev. Gilbert Tennent traveled to England to solicit funds in support of the College of New Jersey<sup>114</sup> and in 1754 Rev. Cowell joined the school's building committee. When President Burr died in 1757, Rev. Cowell was appointed president until the following year. Of Rev. Cowell's involvement with the college as trustee and president, Davies, who would become the college's fourth president, said: "[f]ew invested [it] with the same trust, discharged it with so much zeal, diligence and alacrity."<sup>115</sup> Rev. Cowell was so entrenched with the founding of the school that in a letter to Davies, he declared "the College ought to be esteemed of as much importance to the interests of religion and liberty as any other institution of the kind in America. God, at first, in a most remarkable manner owned and blessed it...He erected it; for our beginning was nothing. He carried it on till it was marvelous in our eyes."<sup>116</sup>

Trenton Presbyterians became particularly involved in the role of education in New Jersey, both before and after the Revolution. Rev. Cowell and Rev. Burr collaborated on the foundation of a primary school in Trenton, an enterprise for which they raised funds through a lottery that became known as the "Lottery of the Innocents." As lotteries were illegal in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, the drawing was held offshore on Fish Island in the Delaware River in July 1753 to raise money for "a house to accommodate an English and grammar school, and...a master to teach such children whose parents are unable to pay for schooling."<sup>117</sup> A school was built shortly thereafter on the "south-east corner of the meeting-house yard." As described by Dr. Francis Armstrong Ewing:

[in] the yard behind the church stood a fine apple-tree, much resorted to for its shade, its blossoms, and its fruit by the children from the school-house, which was on the eastern part of the same lot. This school was taught by Mr. Nicholas Dubois, who united in himself the offices of elder, teacher, and chorister, in which last capacity he had a place with his choir in the gallery.<sup>118</sup>

The school was leased in 1800 to the Trenton Academy for use as a girls' school, wherein an additional story was added.<sup>119</sup> Trenton Academy had been formed in 1781 by a group of proprietors, which included many members of the Presbyterian Church, to establish "the great importance of Education to the well-being of individuals."<sup>120</sup> Trenton Academy examinations were held in the Presbyterian Church

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 15

and "attended by the Governor, Legislature, and distinguished members."<sup>121</sup> The school building was later demolished with construction of the second church.

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Among the first trustees of the First Presbyterian Church were some of Trenton's most prominent citizens, including Charles Clark, Andrew Reed, Joseph Yard, Arthur Howell, William Green, and Alexander Chambers.<sup>122</sup> Charles Clark was a local farmer who eventually served as a trustee until 1775; his sons, Daniel and Benjamin, were heavily involved in the Revolution and also came to serve as trustees.<sup>123</sup> Andrew Reed was a local merchant who became the first treasurer of Trenton when it was incorporated, for a brief period, in 1746. His family was also heavily involved in the Revolution, particularly his son Joseph, who was a general under Washington during the crossing of the Delaware in 1777 and who was later made a trustee as well.<sup>124</sup> Joseph Yard was a trustee and clerk of the Board until 1762; his family is among Trenton's earliest settlers. Arthur Howell and William Green served until 1762 and 1764, respectively. Alexander Chambers served until his death in 1798; he was treasurer from 1766-1796 and president from 1783-1798. His family was also among Trenton's earliest settlers, and their store (at the corner of State and Willow Streets) featured prominently in the development of the area.<sup>125</sup> His progeny continued to serve on the Board of Trustees for many years. Trenton Merchant Moore Furman, who would become Trenton's first mayor in 1792, took Andrew Reed's trustee position in 1760.<sup>126</sup> One of the Trenton signatories who raised money and petitioned jointly for Rev. Spencer's services was Isaac Smith, the first president of the Trenton Banking Company, member of the House of Representatives, Revolutionary War soldier, friend of Washington (leading to several of his visits to Trenton), First Supreme Court Justice of New Jersey, member of the Continental Congress, physician, lawyer, colonel in the Continental Army, militia member, and compatriot of John Adams.<sup>127</sup>

Members of the Board of Trustees continued to be some of Trenton's most influential and eminent citizens, including Abraham Hunt who served from 1764-1821. He was "the most prominent and opulent merchant of the town" and served as postmaster before and after the Revolution.<sup>128</sup> Hunt was also a member of the Hunterdon County militia under Isaac Smith.<sup>129</sup> Samuel Tucker served from 1766-1788; he was once Sheriff of Hunterdon, a member of the Provincial Assembly of 1769, President of the Provincial Congress of New Jersey in 1775-1776, Justice of the Supreme Court, State Treasurer, and Chairman of the Provincial Committee of Safety in 1776.<sup>130</sup>

President James Monroe attended services at the church in 1817, and General Lafayette attended services during his visit to Trenton in 1824.<sup>131</sup> Other prominent citizens identified with the church include Samuel Henry, owner of an ironworks in Trenton; Andrew Reed, the first treasurer of the short-lived Borough of Trenton; Samuel L. Southard, Secretary of the Navy under James Monroe, Attorney General of New Jersey, and Governor of New Jersey; Charles Ewing, Chief Justice of New Jersey; and Thomas J. Stryker, historian and trustee of the Theological Seminary of Princeton.<sup>132</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 16

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In 1852, church services were attended by Daniel Webster (statesman, senator, lawyer, orator, advocate of American nationalism, and Secretary of State under President William Henry Harrison) and William L. Dayton (judge, senator, New Jersey State Attorney General, and United States Minister to France).<sup>133</sup>

Following the Revolutionary War, the church and its members were infused in the political scene unfolding in Trenton – one that held national implications. After the constitutional convention drafted the Constitution of the United States in 1787, it was submitted to several states for ratification. On December 11, 1787, thirty-nine delegates, three from each county in New Jersey, met at the Blazing Star tavern in Trenton to ratify the Constitution.<sup>134</sup> The sessions of the public convention held over the next six days were opened with prayers led by Rev. Armstrong. On December 20, 1787, New Jersey became the third state to ratify the Constitution.<sup>135</sup>

Trenton also held a reception for Washington in 1789 as he passed through to New York, on his way to become the first President of the United States. He was met by a large assembly of Trenton's matrons and young ladies, singing and strewing flowers; many were members of the Presbyterian Church, including Rev. Armstrong's wife.<sup>136</sup>

Rev. Armstrong aided Isaac Collins, founder of the first newspaper in New Jersey in 1777, in the 1791 production of the first Bibles following the Revolutionary War. Due to its lack of errors and careful revision, the "Collins Bible" was held as a standard. In a subsequent edition, Collins specifically thanked Rev. Armstrong for his assistance with the initial publication.<sup>137</sup>

In 1792, members of the Presbyterian Church of Trenton were part of a post-Revolutionary War petition to the state legislature to abolish slavery. Signatories buried in the cemetery are Alexander Chambers, Moore Furman, Nicholas deBelleville, Ogden Woodruff, Elliot Howell, Henry Drake, John Anderson, Henry Green, John Scudder, Benjamin Yard, Abraham Hunt, Issac Smith, Isaac Collins (a Quaker), Nathaniel Furman, William Green, Daniel Scudder, and John Howell.<sup>138</sup> Throughout the church's history, however, abolition was not always completely supported. In addition to the national level of division in the Presbyterian Church regarding slavery, the position of the Trenton First Presbyterian Church and its members remained ambiguous. While some members were included in the 1792 letter to the New Jersey Legislature calling for outlawing slavery, many other members continued to own slaves until much later. Into the nineteenth century, the church was also "...characterized by disagreement and division over theology, governance, and...particularly slavery."<sup>139</sup>

### CEMETERY OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRENTON

While the church of the Presbyterians may have gone through various forms, the cemetery tells the tale of a lineage that helped define a nation. Many political, economic, educational, and civic leaders of the community are buried at the church. The markers located in the east and west yards of the church range in date from the early eighteenth to late nineteenth century and reflect the changing preferences in



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 17

mortuary art, as influenced by the changing styles of art and architecture over the same period. As a collection, these markers represent the diverse burial traditions found throughout New Jersey.

Before 1850, sandstone and marble were the most commonly used materials for stone markers in New Jersey. Sandstone, which ranges in varying shades from reddish brown to white depending on mineral composition, was the most popular as it was relatively inexpensive and is one of the easiest stones to carve. In addition, it could be quarried locally, along banks of the Mullica Hill, Raritan, and Delaware Rivers and in the Newark and lower Hudson River Valley areas. Marble, which was a much harder material to carve and had to be imported from Pennsylvania, New York, or Connecticut, was expensive, but a very desirable material as it allowed for the carving of intricate designs. Marble was also a more traditional material for grave markers and was the preferred stone for the graves of soldiers, civic and religious leaders, and statesmen.<sup>140</sup>

Many of the earliest stones in the First Presbyterian Cemetery, primarily upright sandstone slabs, were carved either by or in the tradition of Ebenezer Price and his apprentices Jonathan Akin, David Jeffries, and Abner Stewart during the eighteenth century.<sup>141</sup> However, due to sinkage of the stones over time, it is not known whether any were signed by Price or his apprentices. Price (1728-1788) was active between 1757 and 1788 in Elizabethtown, Orange, Connecticut Farms, and Woodbridge. His characteristic style, and that adopted by his apprentices, included stylized floral designs and faces of soul effigies with flat, square-shaped noses, distinctive eyebrows, and curled hair framing the face. These designs were based on traditional Puritan motifs brought from England to New Jersey by way of New England and Eastern Long Island. That these motifs were employed in Trenton demonstrates a cultural link between the colonies.<sup>142</sup> The motifs were used symbolically to illustrate the mortality of body in contrast to the immortality of soul. Early examples utilized the death's head, hourglass, and winged skull. Cherubs and soul effigies were more commonly used by the late eighteenth century, while it was more common to represent a funeral urn and tree, often a weeping willow, by the early nineteenth century.<sup>143</sup>

New England slate, most likely imported from Massachusetts or Rhode Island, was also used for some of the eighteenth century markers in the cemetery. As slate is especially prone to deterioration, extant examples are not as proportionally numerous as stones in other materials, yet the First Presbyterian Cemetery contains some good examples of slate markers, including a circa 1760 stone with a winged soul and floral border. Other notable slate markers from later in the eighteenth century include the weeping willow design.<sup>144</sup>

A number of markers from the early nineteenth century employ classical revival styles in the form of table stones, pedestals, and obelisks. There is evidence that there may have been even more table stones, as at least one appears to have been reset upright as a slab stone, perhaps after collapsing. Gothic Revival cast iron fencing, such as that found surrounding one of the more elaborate stones in the west yard, dates from approximately 1830 to 1840.<sup>145</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 18

As evidence to the deterioration that some of the stones have suffered over time, one can compare the condition of the stones found under the floorboards within the basement of the church to those still in place outside. One of the stones which was discovered under the floor during one of the alterations to the site is a grayish-white marble slab in overall good condition with an inscription that is still very crisp.<sup>146</sup> Although this stone is not signed, it appears to have been in the tradition of Philadelphia carvers and was most likely ordered from a carver's shop in that city. Signed markers are not common, yet at least three in the First Presbyterian Cemetery have been identified as signed local carvers. As markers used relatively close to the location of the carver's shops are less likely to have been signed than those exported for use farther away, it is likely that more of the stones were created by these known local craftsmen. In addition, as markers were often signed on the base or plinth, the signature often disappears as the stone sinks over time.<sup>147</sup>

Of the three stones clearly identified as signed, two can be attributed to John W. Conroy and the other to Luther Ward and Son. John W. Conroy was active during the mid-nineteenth century and operated from a shop on Stockton Street in Trenton. Stones known to be carved by Conroy have also been identified in Hopewell and Sergeantsville. Luther Ward and his son were carvers active in the Trenton area during the same period as Conroy, although they worked out of New Brunswick in the early nineteenth-century. They moved to Trenton in the mid-nineteenth century and were in operation until at least 1880. Their office was located at 131 East State Street, across the street from the church and near the eastern boundary of the cemetery. Other stones associated with the Wards have been identified in Mount Holly, Readington, Flemington, New Brunswick, and Blawenburg.<sup>148</sup>

*Burials in the First Presbyterian Cemetery*

In 1788, strangers were prohibited from being buried in the cemetery without paying the church, and the trustees sought to purchase land nearby for additional graves as "it [was] filling up very fast."<sup>149</sup>

Disruption of the cemetery occurred in 1839-1840 when the second church was torn down and the third church erected, in 1950 when Fellowship Hall was constructed at the northeast corner of the property, and in 1968 when a parking lot was constructed. According to information found in genealogical material, several internments were moved to the Riverview Cemetery; however, no date is given for the re-internments.<sup>150</sup> Burials ceased by the end of the nineteenth century.

Rev. David Cowell, the congregation's first minister, is buried in the west yard of the cemetery and his marker is extant. Rev. Cowell was involved in the formation of Princeton University, the Great Schism of the Presbyterian Church in America, and the nomination of Trenton as the capital of the United States.<sup>151</sup> Samuel Tucker, leader of the Continental Congress, is buried there, as well.<sup>152</sup> During the Revolution, "American troops buried twenty-four in the burying ground of the Old First Church."<sup>153</sup>

Aaron Woodruff, State Attorney General and Trenton's second mayor, is buried in the cemetery; his gravestone was crushed by a tree and replaced with a monument in 1909. James Ewing, third Mayor of Trenton from 1797-1803, partner of Isaac Collins, one of the founders of the library and the Trenton Academy, trustee and elder of the church, is buried in the cemetery without a marker (per his wishes).<sup>154</sup> Benjamin Yard, who operated the first steel mill in New Jersey in 1745, is buried in the cemetery.<sup>155</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 19

Pastor James Francis Armstrong's original grave was located in the cemetery but was moved to Riverview upon the death of his wife, Susannah, in 1851. John Hall, a pastor of the church and an influential historical writer, has one of the most prominent graves. He was responsible for the addition of five other Presbyterian churches in Trenton, as well as several churches for other denominations.

In addition, many other notable citizens and Revolutionary activists were trustees or patrons of the First Presbyterian Church throughout its distinguished history. The following Revolution War activists are - or were - buried in the church cemetery, as excerpted from the WPA compilation in the 1930s for the erection of a memorial plaque:

Names listed herewith, (with service, and references), to be placed on tablet at First Presbyterian Church, Trenton, and dedicated to the memory of the Revolutionary Soldiers (and Patriots) who were buried in the First Presbyterian Churchyard.

JAMES FRANCIS ARMSTRONG served as a Private, Captain Peter Gordon's Company, 1st Regiment, Hunterdon County Militia; Chaplain, Colonel Moses Hazen's 2nd Canadian Regiment, November 3, 1776; Chaplain, 2nd Maryland Brigade, Continental Army, May 1, 1777; resigned February 12, 1778, - during the Revolutionary War (Exact copy of record in office of the Adjutant General, State of New Jersey, made by Director, Record Division. Sept. 15, 1933.) "The epitaph on the tomb of Mr. Armstrong in the churchyard, was written by President S. Stanhope Smith [of Princeton University]" (from *History of the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton, N.J.: From the Settlement of the Town.*) "Sacred to the memory of The Revd. James Francis Armstrong, 30 years pastor of the Church at Trenton, in union with the Church at Maidenhead born in Maryland, of pious parents, he received the elements of his classical education under the Revd. John Blair; finished his collegiate studies in the College of New Jersey, under the Revd. Dr. Witherspoon, and was licensed to preach the gospel in the year 1777. An ardent patriot, he served through the War of Independence as a Chaplain In 1790 he was chosen a trustee of the College of New Jersey. A warm and constant friend, a devout Christian, a tender husband and parent; steady in his attendance on the judicatories of the Church, throughout his life he was distinguished as a fervent and affectionate minister of the Gospel, and resigned his soul to his Creator and Redeemer on the 19th of January, 1816. 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Amen: Even so come Lord Jesus.'" (Copied by Thirza A. Howell, from the tombstone now in Riverview Cemetery.) "James Francis Armstrong was a native of Maryland ...He was appointed Chaplain in Sullivan's Brigade, and accompanied the troops on the Southern Campaign. He remained in the Army until the surrender of Yorktown... in 1786 he became pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Trenton, New Jersey. From 1790 to 1816 he was a Trustee of the College. He died January 19, 1816" (from *Princeton College During the Eighteenth Century.*) "James Francis Armstrong... was born at West Nottingham, Md., April 3, 1750... In the autumn of 1771, Mr. Armstrong entered the Junior Class at Princeton, and had the privilege of living in the family of President, Dr. Witherspoon ... He was ordained by the Presbytery

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 20

of New Castle, in January, 1778, and on the 17th July following was appointed by Congress "Chaplain of the Second Brigade of the Maryland Forces." (from *Annals of the American Pulpit* by William B. Sprague, D. D., published 1860. Vol. III. Page 389, etc. Much interesting information about his service is contained in this book.)

JOHN BEATTY served as a Captain, 5th Pennsylvania Battalion, January 5, 1776; Major, 6th Pennsylvania, October 12, 1776; taken prisoner at Fort Washington, November 16, 1776; exchanged May 8, 1778; Major, 6th Pennsylvania, January 1, 1777, to rank from October 12, 1776; Colonel, Commissary General of Prisoners, May 28, 1778; resigned March 31, 1780. Died May 30, 1826 (from *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army during the War of the Revolution*. Copy here made from letter of May 12, 1933 from office of the Adjutant General, State of New Jersey, Record Division.) *Tombstone in churchyard*: General John Beatty, born Dec. 10, 1749 died May 30, 1826. "Chief Justice Ewing wrote his epitaph, 'Sacred to the memory of General John Beatty, born December 10, 1749, died May 30, 1826 ———. In the War of Independence, in important military stations, he faithfully served his country'" (from *History of the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton, N.J.: From the Settlement of the Town*.) "John Beatty, a son of the Rev. Charles Beatty, after studying medicine with Dr. Rush, entered the army as a private soldier, reaching by degrees the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. In 1776 he fell into the hands of the enemy at the capture of Fort Washington, and suffered a long and rigorous imprisonment. In 1779 he succeeded Elias Boudinot as Commissioner-General of Prisoners" (from *Princeton College During the Eighteenth Century*.)

NICHOLAS JACQUES de BELLEVILLE came to the United States from France with Count Pulaski, to whom he was private physician; claims he was appointed and commissioned Surgeon in the Continental Army at Valley Forge, under Dr. William Shippen; that in 1779 was attached to Hospital at Trenton, in a building called, 'White Hall'; Resigned in the summer of 1780, during Revolutionary War. Established residence at Trenton, where he practiced medicine until his death, December 18, 1831 (Exact copy of record in office of the Adjutant General, State of New Jersey made by Director, Record Division, May 2, 1933.) *Tombstone in churchyard*: Dr. Nicholas Belleville Died Dec. 17, 1831 aged 79 years. "Nicholas Jacques Emanuel de Belleville was born at Metz, France in 1753 .... He attended the Count (Pulaski) in the capacity of surgeon, in the different parts of the country to which he went for the purpose of recruiting a legion, which the Count was authorized to raise by the Provincial Congress... Dr. F. A. Ewing...furnished the inscription for his tomb: 'This stone covers the remains of Dr. Nicholas Belleville, Born and educated in France; for fifty-four years an inhabitant of this city. A patriot warmly attached to the principles of liberty - ' etc.'" (from *History of the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton, N.J.: From the Settlement of the Town*.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 21

ALEXANDER CHAMBERS served as one of the Purchasing Commissioners of Military Stores, Western Division of New Jersey, October 28, 1775; one of the Barrack masters at Trenton, New Jersey, February 3, 1776; Receiver General of Clothing and Military Stores, stationed at Trenton, appointed under Act of November 25, 1777; in service in all of the above offices as late as June 1, 1781, - during the Revolutionary War. Resident of Trenton, Hunterdon County, New Jersey (Exact copy of record in office of Adjutant General, State of New Jersey, made by Director, Record Division, May 2, 1933.)

*Tombstone in churchyard:* Died Sept. 16, 1798 aged 82 years. "Alexander Chambers was one of the Barrack Masters in charge of the Old Barracks in 1776. His brick house and next to it his general store, built of mud stuccoed, was on the corner of Second Street and River Road" (from *Monographs of the Revolution.*) ".....and Alexander Chambers were appointed, October 28, 1775, "Commissioners for the western Division" of the Colony to receive and expend money for arms and subsistence of the troops" (from *History of the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton, N.J.: From the Settlement of the Town.*)

DAVID R. CHAMBERS served as a Private, Captain William Tucker's Company, 1st Regiment, Hunterdon County Militia, prior to September 1777; Ensign, prior to March 18, 1778; in service April 1781; in active service as Private under Captain Tucker, entered September 14, and mustered October 7, 1777; was left sick in Trenton, New Jersey, when company marched to Elizabethtown to join General Winds; and as Ensign, received L59:10:0, for services in Trenton, March 1778, during the Revolutionary War. Resident of Hunterdon County, New Jersey (Exact copy of record in office of the Adjutant General, State of New Jersey, made by Director, Record Division, May 2, 1933.) *Tombstone in churchyard:* Born Sept. 17, 1759 Died Oct. 21, 1785. See account under Robert Chambers.

ROBERT CHAMBERS served as a Private, Captain James Bruere's Company, Colonel Elisha Lawrence's Regiment, Monmouth County Militia; in active service, called to guard the coast of Monmouth County, 1778 and 1780, -during the Revolutionary War (Exact copy of record in office of the Adjutant General, State of New Jersey, made by Director, Record division, May 2, 1933.) *Tablet in East wall of church:* Died Jan. 26, 1813 Aged 55 yrs. "Robert Chambers was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He took part in the battle of Trenton, although but 18 years old, as did his brother David and his three cousins, sons of John of Trenton (who was an elder in the First Presbyterian Church in 1760)" (Woodward & Hageman, Page 748.) "Robert or Capt. Robert, born July 28, 1758 was in the Revolutionary War...Henry (Chambers) born 1753 and David R. Born September 1759 were in the Revolutionary War and with their cousins David and Robert were participants in the battle of Trenton. They crossed the Delaware with Washington and being familiar with the country, were placed in the front rank and led the advance of the left wing down the Scotch Road to Trenton" (from *Genealogy of Early Settlers.*) In the Philadelphia Historical Society is the continental note, - the pay for Robert Chambers in the army - which was placed there for safety by an uncle of Miss Chambers or of her

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 22

aunt. Miss Hall (Verified by Miss Margaret Chambers.)

WILLIAM CHAMBERS served as a Corporal, Captain Thomas Reading's Company, 3rd Regiment, New Jersey Continental Line; enlisted March 12, 1776; mustered, Ticonderoga, N. Y., November 23, 1776, and Mount Independence, N. Y., February 23, 1777, by Richard Varick, Deputy Mustermaster General, with remark "present" - during the Revolutionary War (Exact copy of record in office of the Adjutant General, State of New Jersey, made by Director, Record Division, May 2, 1933.) *Tombstone in west churchyard*: Died Mar. 6, 1777 aged 28 yrs. "William (Chambers) born May 1749 died of small-pox at Ticonderoga" (from *Genealogy of Early Settlers*.)

DR. DAVID COWELL served as a Senior Physician and Surgeon in Military Hospitals about two years, - during the Revolutionary War. Graduated from Princeton College in 1763, and studied medicine in Philadelphia, Pa.; settled in Trenton, New Jersey, and practiced there until his death, December 18, 1783. (Exact copy of record in office of the Adjutant General, State of New Jersey, made by Director, Record Division, May 2, 1933.) *Tombstone in churchyard*: Died Dec. 18, 1783 aged 43 years. "The first house on the left side of Pennington Road was that of Dr. David Cowell, a bachelor, an eminent physician and surgeon" (from *Trenton One Hundred Years Ago*.) "David Cowell, M. D., was a senior physician and surgeon in military hospitals" (from *History of Trenton*.) "In December, 1783, died David Cowell, M. D. For two years he was senior physician and surgeon in military hospitals" (from *History of the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton, N.J.: From the Settlement of the Town*.) "His (Ebenezer Cowell's) children were David, graduated from Princeton in 1763...removed to Trenton where he practiced until his death of quinsy. Dec. 18, 1783. For two years he was senior physician and surgeon in military hospitals in the American Army" (from *New Jersey Biographical and Genealogical Notes*.) "The following names were among the graduates of greatest note" - Princeton College - "1763, David Cowell, A. M.; M. D. of New Jersey, for two years the Senior Physician and Surgeon of the United States Military Hospitals" (from *A History of the College of New Jersey*.) The *New Jersey Gazette* of December, 1783, announces his burial in the Presbyterian Churchyard.

EBENEZER COWELL received certificate 1, voucher 171, April 28, 1785, amounting to L:8:9, as listed in an account entitled 'The State of New Jersey to James Mott Treasurer, on account of cash paid in Bills of credit for one year's interest in Continental Certificates given by Benjamin Thompson, Esquire, Commissioner.' - during the Revolutionary War (Exact copy of record in office of the Adjutant General, State of New Jersey, made by Director, Record Division, May 2, 1933.) *Tombstone in churchyard*: Died May 4, 1799, aged 82 years. "In 1776 he (Ebenezer Cowell) advertised for gunsmiths, and offered to instruct others in the art of repairing guns for the American Army. He was engaged in this work during the American occupancy of Trenton and vicinity, and employed many helpers, whom he paid out of his own pocket, often waiting

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 23

many months before being reimbursed for his outlays, but did it gladly, for his love of the American cause. The British showed their resentment by ransacking his house when they entered Trenton after the famous battle at that place, December 26, 1776. In 1791, he was living in Philadelphia. He returned to Trenton where he died May 4, 1799, his will dated Feb. 27, 1799, being proved May 11, 1799. In this will he devises house lot in Trenton, etc." (from *New Jersey Biographical and Genealogical Notes*.)

DR. JOHN COWELL served as a Surgeon in the Militia, stationed in Morristown, June 1779, during the Revolutionary War (Exact copy of record in office of the Adjutant General, State of New Jersey, made by Director, Record Division, May 2, 1933.)  
*Tombstone in churchyard:* Died Jan. 30, 1789 in 30th year. "John (Cowell) studied medicine, and served as a Surgeon of Militia in 1779. On the death of his brother David he advertised in the New Jersey Gazette 'that he had been prevailed upon by friends of his deceased brother to establish himself as a physician in Trenton'. He died Jan. 30, 1789 according to his tombstone...but his will, not dated, was proved Jan. 28, 1789, or two day before his death" (from *New Jersey Biographical and Genealogical Notes*.)  
"Lived on the Pennington Road, near the Cottnams" (from Newspaper Extracts, New Jersey Archives.)

JAMES EWING served as a Captain, Deerfield Company, Cumberland County Militia, prior to September 2, 1776; Paymaster of Militia for Cumberland County and Cape May County; made payments from January 8, 1777; discharged prior to May 18, 1779; Recruiting Officer, to recruit men in Cumberland County for the Continental Services to rendezvous at Bridgeton, October 10, 1777; Paymaster, Cumberland County, to borrow money, pay bounty and purchase clothing for the recruits enlisted for the nine months service in the New Jersey Regiments of the Continental Line, under Act of April 14, 1778, - during the Revolutionary War (Exact copy of record in office of the Adjutant General, State of New Jersey, made by Director, Record Division, May 2, 1933.)  
*Tombstone in churchyard:* Born July 12, 1747 died Oct. 16, 1823. Another tombstone is in Riverview Cemetery. "James Ewing, a son of Maskell and Mary Ewing was a member of the 'Tea Party'. He was elected to the Assembly from Cumberland County in 1778 and took up his residence in Trenton in 1779. He was Mayor of Trenton 1797-1803. He died Oct. 23, 1923 (from *Colonial and Old Houses of Greenwich, New Jersey*.) "The remains of Judge Ewing have been removed from the churchyard to Riverview Cemetery" (from *History of the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton, N.J.: From the Settlement of the Town*.)

MOORE FURMAN was appointed by the Legislature, February 6, 1777, Commissioner to Purchase and receive clothing for the army in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Paymaster and Clothier, for the recruits raised for the nine months service in Hunterdon County, New Jersey; appointed by an Act of the Legislature of April 3, 1778; Deputy Quartermaster General for the Army in the State of New Jersey in Sussex County;

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 24

appointed and commissioned, with rank of Colonel, by Nathaniel Greene, Quartermaster General, April 21, 1778; carried on the duties of his office as early as January 10, 1778, at which date he was stationed at Pittstown, New Jersey; remained at Pittstown to as late as December 15, 1779; between December 15 and 20, 1779, removed the office to Trenton, N.J.; resigned September 19, 1780, on account of having to support his family; was engaged to as late as December 17, 1799, in settling and adjusting his accounts. Resided on a farm near Pittstown, New Jersey, where he also owned a mill (Exact copy of record in office of the Adjutant General, State of New Jersey, made by Director, Record Division, Sept. 15, 1933.) *Tombstone in churchyard*: Died March 16th, 1808 in his 79th year. "Had an office and resided on Second Street" (from *Monographs of the Revolution*.) "He was one of the successful merchants of Trenton and was first Mayor of Trenton by appointment of the Legislature, upon its incorporation in 1792 (from *History of the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton, N.J.: From the Settlement of the Town*.) "Stryker says of him that 'he was a faithful patriot and greatly entrusted by the Government and by Washington during the Revolution'. He was a trustee of the Presbyterian Church 1760-62 and again 1783-88" (from *History of Trenton*.)

SMITH HILL served as a Quartermaster, Burlington County, prior to November 30, 1777, - during the Revolutionary War (Exact copy of record in office of the Adjutant General, State of New Jersey, made by Director, Record Division, May 2, 1933.) *Tombstone in churchyard*: Smith Hill who departed this life January 9th, 1822 aged 71 years Trenton, New Jersey May 15, 1933. "I learn that you are gathering the names of those persons buried in the First Presbyterian Church yard who fought in the patriot army of the Revolution. I beg to state that my great-grandfather, Smith Hill, who was a member of the church, is buried in the churchyard. His tombstone lied in the footpath on the Westerly side of the church, right close to the entrance into the Sunday School room. Smith Hill was born, as we learn from an old family Bible, on February 16th, 1751, and was the son of Samuel Hill (an elder of the First Presbyterian Church) and Christiana Hill, his wife. From the will of Smith Hill, dated September 19, 1821, we learn that he was the owner of one slave girl called Flora, also that he had a pew in the First Church. This Smith Hill was a quartermaster of the First Regiment, Burlington Militia, during the Revolution and the Adjutant General of New Jersey has issued a certificate to that effect. It is a tradition in the family, told to me by my aunts and uncles that Smith Hill piloted or accompanied General Washington from the top of the hill (now Greenwood Avenue) to Princeton. It is said that at the Pond Run bridge there was trouble with the cannon which caused a delay, otherwise the march would have been quicker than it was. The tombstone reads: Smith Hill who departed this life January 9th, 1822 aged 71 years (from letter dated May 15, 1933 to Mrs. C. Edward Murray from Edmund C. Hill.)

ELLETT HOWELL served as a Second Lieutenant, Company of Light Infantry, 1st Regiment, Hunterdon County Militia, June 28, 1778; Quartermaster at Trenton, New Jersey from April 1780; made returns and signed receipts from April to October 1780;



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 25

Clerk to the assistant Quartermaster at Trenton, in January 1780, - during the Revolutionary War (Exact copy of record in office of the Adjutant General, State of New Jersey, made by Director, Record Division, May 2, 1933.) *Tombstone in churchyard:* Died April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1816 aged 64. Lived with Aaron Howell whose house adjoined the English Church on Warren (King) Street (from *Monographs of the Revolution.*) "Ellett, son of Hezekiah, was a lieutenant of the First Hunterdon Regiment and assistant Quartermaster. He died in 1821 aged 64" (from *Genealogy of Early Settlers.*)

ABRAHAM HUNT served as a Lieutenant Colonel, 1st Regiment, Hunterdon County Militia; reported by the Governor to the Assembly as refusing to act, March 15, 1777; Purchasing Commissioner of Military Store, Western Division of New Jersey. October 28, 1775, - during the Revolutionary War. Resident of Trenton; Hunterdon County, New Jersey Was a Son of Wilson Hunt, Postmaster of Trenton; married Mary Dagworthy; died at his residence which was upon the site of the present Masonic Temple, Corner State and Warren Streets, Trenton, New Jersey, October 21, 1821, aged 81 years (Exact copy of record in office of the Adjutant General, State of New Jersey, made by Director, Record Division, May 2, 1933.) *Tombstone in churchyard:* Died Oct 27, 1821 in his 81st year. "Abraham Hunt was appointed, October 28, 1775, Commissioner for the Western Division of the Colony to receive and expend money for arms and subsistence of the troops" (from *Minutes of the Provincial Congress.*) "He held the same office (above) in 1776 and in 1777 (from *Battles of Trenton and Princeton.*) Original manuscript minutes of the County courts throughout the Province and State of New Jersey... Among these were the minutes of the Hunterdon County Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery, which was held at Flemington from December 23, 1777, to January 1, 1778. The court was presided over by the Hon. Isaac Smith, associate justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, and who lived in Trenton. This record—beyond question removes all suspicion of his (Abraham Hunt) being a Tory in the Revolution. On Saturday, December 27, 1777, besides the presence of Justice Smith, the minutes show that Andre Miurheid and Nathan Stout comprised the remaining members of the Court. "The Justices in the Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the County of Hunterdon handed up the following indictments found before them: "The State vs. Abraham Hunt. Indict. High treason. It appearing to the Court That there was but one witness in Support of this Charge; that this Witness testified merely as to the speaking of Words of a seditious Cast; that he had been before the present Grand Jury, which did not think proper to indict the Defendt. for any Offence whatever, and it being clear that an Indict. For High Treason could not be found in the sessions of the Peace; therefore ordered on Motion of the Atty. Gen. that the said Indictment be quashed." "Therefore the "Historical tattle" we have listened to for years against Abraham Hunt crumbles under the slightest pressure through this valuable judicial document (from an Article by Dr. Carlos E. Godfrey, published in the Trenton Sunday Times-Advertiser, February 26, 1922.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFirst Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New JerseySection number 8 Page 26

JOHN ROSBROUGH (ROSBOROUGH) Chaplain Pennsylvania Militia in 1776-1777, billed at Trenton. 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 1777 (from Heitman's *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army*.) Tombstone recently erected by Presbytery of New Brunswick in the churchyard, grave not located. "John Rosbrugh was born in Ireland in the year 1717...He came to this country in 1735...He was graduated at the College of New Jersey (now Princeton) in 1761. Mr. Rosbrugh was a warm friend to his country's liberties and finally fell a martyr to his patriotism...he joined with some of his neighbors in forming military company and marched with them in the capacity of private soldier. At Philadelphia he received the Commission of a Chaplain to the regiment to which these troops were attached. They joined the American army when retreating...and Mr. Rosbrugh proceeded with his company to Trenton; and as he was going toward the river in search of his horse he was met by a company of Hessians. He immediately gave himself up as a prisoner but was brutally slain. A young man by the name of John Hays, of Mr. Rosbrugh's congregation, took charge of the corpse and buried in the next day an obscure place in Trenton. The Rev. George Duffield, of Philadelphia, having heard of the sad event, took measures to have the body removed to the churchyard for its final interment...There is no monument to mark that place of his grave..." (*Annals of the American Pulpit*, Sprague, Vol. III.)

WILLIAM ROSCOE received certificate No. 25, in 1777, for L7:2:6, for Riding Express; paid a militia fine of \$75.2/3rds, to furnish a substitute, November 1777; Commissary of Hides, during the Revolutionary War. NOTE: Was a father of Jesse Roscoe who resided at Trenton, Hunterdon County, New Jersey (Exact copy of record in office of the Adjutant General, State of New Jersey, made by Director, Record Division, May 2, 1933.) No tombstone standing. "The newspapers of the day record the burial in the Presbyterian ground, of William Roscoe, who died Oct. 9, 1805, in his seventy-third year, 'a first cousin of, and brought up by the celebrated William Roscoe, of Liverpool, author of the Life of Leo X., etc. In the Revolution he was express rider to Governor Livingston, and for many years Sergeant-at-Arms to the Court of Chancery'" (from *History of the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton, N.J.: From the Settlement of the Town.*) "He was an express rider for Governor Livingston and lived in a little, one-story, hipped roof building on Second Street" (from *Monographs of the Revolution.*)

ISAAC SMITH served as a Colonel, 1st Regiment, Hunterdon County Militia, previous to October 11, 1775; commission vacated March 15, 1777, because of election as 2nd Justice, Supreme Court of New Jersey; served in New York Spring of 1776; Commanded his Regiment, Summer of 1776; elected 2nd Justice, Supreme Court of New Jersey, February 15, 1777, - during the Revolutionary War (Exact copy of record in office of the Adjutant General, State of New Jersey made by Director, Record Division, May 2, 1933.) *Tombstone in churchyard:* Isaac Smith, Esq. Died Aug. 29, 1807 in his 68th year. "He commanded the regiment of militia in and about Trenton. Was the first President of the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 27

Trenton Banking Company, a physician by profession, and at one time Judge of the Supreme Court. He was a man of great integrity and was a friend of General Washington” (from *Monographs of the Revolution.*)

ELIHU REV. SPENCER served as a Chaplain in the Hospital in the Middle District, Continental army, October 20, 1777, to the latter part of 1780, - during the Revolutionary War (Exact copy of record in office of the Adjutant General, State of New Jersey, made by Director, Record Division, May 2, 1933.) *Tombstone in churchyard:* Rev. Elihu Rev. Spencer, D. D. Died Dec. 27, 1784 in 64th year. “Dr. Rev. Spencer resided in the Presbyterian parsonage on Third Street. ( from *Monographs of the Revolution.*) “He was appointed by Congress to visit the more remote parts of Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina for the purpose of informing the settlers there, who were at that time the exceedingly ignorant, of the cause of the Revolution and of the necessity of standing forth in defense of their country...He was pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Trenton and was one of the trustees of the College of New Jersey” (from *History of the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton, N.J.: From the Settlement of the Town.*)

Overall, the cemetery is an excellent representative collection of the markers that can be found in New Jersey and in the wider Philadelphia and New York region. The variety of symbols used, and the types of stones found here, reflect the diversity of religious beliefs and burial traditions that historically could be found in New Jersey, even within a cemetery reserved for Presbyterian use.<sup>156</sup> In addition, the historic significance of the First Presbyterian Church and Cemetery of Trenton has widely been acknowledged. The City of Trenton Landmarks Commission for Historic Preservation designated the church a historic landmark on August 1, 1974. The church and its cemetery have withstood the tribulations of urbanization and modernization to remain a monument to the Revolutionary War and to the statehood of New Jersey – “clinging with ancient dignity to a modern world.”<sup>157</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Podmore 1964, n.p.

<sup>2</sup> Podmore 1964, n.p.

<sup>3</sup> *A Brief History of the Presbyterian Church in this Country* n.d., n.p.

<sup>4</sup> Hall 1859, 40 and *A Brief History of the Presbyterian Church in this Country* n.d., n.p.

<sup>5</sup> *A Brief History of the Presbyterian Church in this Country* n.d., n.p.

<sup>6</sup> Lingle and Kuykendall 1978, 12.

<sup>7</sup> Hodge 1851, 87.

<sup>8</sup> Hall 1859, 9-10.

<sup>9</sup> Hall 1859, 27 and Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p.

<sup>10</sup> Gemmell and Haves 1964, 28.

<sup>11</sup> Hall 1859, 41, 55.

<sup>12</sup> Hall 1859, 58 and Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p.

<sup>13</sup> Hall 1859, 66-67.

<sup>14</sup> Snyder 1988, 164-165

<sup>15</sup> Woodward 1883, n.p.

<sup>16</sup> Hall 1859, 53-54 and Toothman 1977, 123-132.

<sup>17</sup> Woodward 1883, n.p.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 28

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- 18 Woodward 1883, n.p. and Hall 1859, 55.
  - 19 *Charter of the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church of Trenton*, n.p.
  - 20 *Charter of the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church of Trenton*, n.p.
  - 21 Hall 1859, 59-64.
  - 22 Hall 1859.
  - 23 Hall 1859, 352.
  - 24 Derry 1994, 211.
  - 25 Hall 1859 355.
  - 26 Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p.
  - 27 Hall 1859, 360-361.
  - 28 Raum 1871, 105.
  - 29 Raum 1871, 105.
  - 30 Hall 1859, 362.
  - 31 Derry 1994, 213.
  - 32 Raum 1871, 105
  - 33 McLeod and McLeod 1977, 108.
  - 34 Derry 1994, 213.
  - 35 Wigren 2004.
  - 36 Atwater 1877, page unknown.
  - 37 Wigren 2004.
  - 38 Wigren 2004 and Atwater 1877, page unknown.
  - 39 Campbell 2003.
  - 40 Hewitt 1916, 41.
  - 41 Derry 1994, 213.
  - 42 Raum 1871, 105.
  - 43 Quigley and Collier 1984, 150.
  - 44 Greenagel 2001, 182 and 196.
  - 45 Greenagel 2001, 194, 196-7, 39, 198-9, 71, 201 and 4.
  - 46 Pierson 1976, 206-207.
  - 47 "Greek Revival: Pagan Temples for Christian Worship," n.p.
  - 48 "Greek Revival: Pagan Temples for Christian Worship," n.p.
  - 49 Podmore 1964, n.p.
  - 50 Blinn 1962, 8.
  - 51 Raum 1871, 94. and Blinn 1962, 9.
  - 52 New Jersey Historical Records Survey Project, 47.
  - 53 Blinn 1962, 13.
  - 54 Blinn 1962, 13.
  - 55 Raser 2000, 91.
  - 56 Church archives.
  - 57 Church Bulletin, 1984.
  - 58 Hall 1859, 27 and Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p.
  - 59 Hall 1859, 40-47 and Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p.
  - 60 Woodward 1883, n.p.
  - 61 Hall 1859, 79-89 and Reid, n.p.
  - 62 Hall 1859, 79-89 and Reid, n.p.
  - 63 *The Founding of Princeton*, n.p.
  - 64 Hall 1859, 79-80, Reid, n.p., and *The Founding of Princeton*, n.p.
  - 65 *History of American Presbyterianism*, n.p.
  - 66 Hall 1859, 88-89.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 29

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- <sup>67</sup> Hall 1859, 94-95.
  - <sup>68</sup> Hall 1859, 95.
  - <sup>69</sup> Woodward 1883, n.p. and Hall 1859, 144.
  - <sup>70</sup> Hall 1859, 163-189.
  - <sup>71</sup> Hall 1859, 226.
  - <sup>72</sup> Hall 1859, 309.
  - <sup>73</sup> Hall 1859, 314.
  - <sup>74</sup> McLeod 1976, 4.
  - <sup>75</sup> Hall 1859, 343, 367.
  - <sup>76</sup> *Africans in America: American Colonization Society 1816 – 1865*, 1998-1999.
  - <sup>77</sup> Hall 1859, 396.
  - <sup>78</sup> Hall 1859, 406.
  - <sup>79</sup> Woodward 1883, n.p.
  - <sup>80</sup> Podmore 1964, n.p.
  - <sup>81</sup> Woodward 1883, n.p..
  - <sup>82</sup> Raum 1871, 94.
  - <sup>83</sup> Raum 1871, 95.
  - <sup>84</sup> New Jersey Historical Records Survey Project, 47.
  - <sup>85</sup> *A History of the German Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church in Trenton, NJ*, n.p.
  - <sup>86</sup> Blinn 1962, 9.
  - <sup>87</sup> Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p.
  - <sup>88</sup> Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p.
  - <sup>89</sup> Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p.
  - <sup>90</sup> Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p.
  - <sup>91</sup> Derry 1994, 209.
  - <sup>92</sup> Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p.
  - <sup>93</sup> Derry 1994, 217 and McLeod and McLeod 1977, 184.
  - <sup>94</sup> Church Bulletin, 1950.
  - <sup>95</sup> McLeod and McLeod 1977, 201
  - <sup>96</sup> Podmore 1964, n.p.
  - <sup>97</sup> Derry 1994, 208.
  - <sup>98</sup> Podmore 1964, n.p.
  - <sup>99</sup> Lee 1895, 43.
  - <sup>100</sup> Podmore 1964, n.p.
  - <sup>101</sup> Hall 1859, 271-272.
  - <sup>102</sup> Podmore 1964, n.p., Lee 1895, 48, and Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p.
  - <sup>103</sup> Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p.
  - <sup>104</sup> Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p.
  - <sup>105</sup> Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p.
  - <sup>106</sup> Derry 1994, 209.
  - <sup>107</sup> Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p. and Quigley and Collier 1984, 150
  - <sup>108</sup> Hall 1859, 280.
  - <sup>109</sup> Pomfret 1973, 272.
  - <sup>110</sup> Quigley and Collier 1984, 150 and Derry 1994, 210-211.
  - <sup>111</sup> Sloan 1975, 11.
  - <sup>112</sup> Hall 1859, 116-117.
  - <sup>113</sup> Hall 1859, 119-120.
  - <sup>114</sup> Hall 1859, 122-123.
  - <sup>115</sup> Hall 1859, 125 and Leitch 1978, n.p.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 30

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- <sup>116</sup> Leitch 1978, n.p.  
<sup>117</sup> Hall 1859, 120-121 and Derry 1994, 206.  
<sup>118</sup> Hall 1859, 59-64.  
<sup>119</sup> Hall 1859, 121.  
<sup>120</sup> Lee 1895, 103.  
<sup>121</sup> Lee 1895, 103.  
<sup>122</sup> Hall 1859, 154-155.  
<sup>123</sup> Hall 1859, 155-156.  
<sup>124</sup> Hall 1859, 74-75, 157.  
<sup>125</sup> Hall 1859, 158-159.  
<sup>126</sup> Hall 1859, 162.  
<sup>127</sup> Kirby, 196-205.  
<sup>128</sup> Hall 1859, 196.  
<sup>129</sup> Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p.  
<sup>130</sup> Hall 1859, 200-202  
<sup>131</sup> Podmore 1964, n.p.  
<sup>132</sup> Podmore 1964, n.p.  
<sup>133</sup> Blinn 1962, 8.  
<sup>134</sup> Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p.  
<sup>135</sup> Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p.  
<sup>136</sup> Trenton Historical Society 1929, n.p.  
<sup>137</sup> Hall 1859, 330-331.  
<sup>138</sup> May 1, 1792 petition.  
<sup>139</sup> *A Brief History of the Presbyterian Church in this Country* n.d., n.p.  
<sup>140</sup> Sarapin 1994, 20.  
<sup>141</sup> Nonesteid 2004 and Sarapin 1994, 26.  
<sup>142</sup> Cohen 1983, 104.  
<sup>143</sup> Cohen 1983, 100-102.  
<sup>144</sup> Nonesteid 2004.  
<sup>145</sup> Nonesteid 2004.  
<sup>146</sup> Nonesteid 2004.  
<sup>147</sup> Nonesteid 2004.  
<sup>148</sup> Nonesteid 2004.  
<sup>149</sup> Hall 1859, 380.  
<sup>150</sup> Raser 2000, 91.  
<sup>151</sup> Hall 1859, 95, 116.  
<sup>152</sup> Hall 1859, 196, 271 and Derry 1994, 210.  
<sup>153</sup> *First Presbyterian Church, Trenton, New Jersey* 1912, 11  
<sup>154</sup> Hall 1859, 405-6.  
<sup>155</sup> Trenton Historical Society 1929, 1745.  
<sup>156</sup> Sarapin 1994, 27.  
<sup>157</sup> Podmore 1964, n.p.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

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County, New Jersey

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Section number   9   Page   3  

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County, New Jersey

Section number 9 Page 4

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Woodward, E.M. and John F. Hageman. *History of Burlington and Mercer Counties, New Jersey, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Their Pioneers and Prominent Men*. Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1883. <[www.accessible.com](http://www.accessible.com)>.

Wigren, Christopher. Assistant Director, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. Personal Communication with Robert Craig, December 1, 2004.

Zenos, Andrew C. *Presbyterianism in America: Past, Present and Prospective*. New York, T. Nelson and Sons, 1937.

### IMAGES

Postcard view of the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton, Postmarked 1905. Private Collection.

Postcard view of the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton, Postmarked 1909. Private Collection.

Aerial postcard view of the City of Trenton, ca. 1970s. On file at the Newark Public Library.

### MAPS

Ca. 1776 Andreas Wiederholdt *Sketch of the Engagement at Trenton, given on the 26th of December 1776 betwixt the American troops under command of General Washington, and three Hessian regiments under command of Colonell Rall, in which the latter a part surrendert themselves prisoner of war*. Wiederhold Lieut: from the Hessian Rgmt of Knÿphauss. Andreas Wiederholdt. On file at the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, Washington, D.C.

Ca. 1776 *Map of Trenton*, drawn by C.W. Stead, 1926. From *A History of Trenton 1679-1929: Two Hundred and Fifty Years of a Notable Town with Links in Four Centuries*.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number   9   Page   5  

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1777 William Faden *Plan of the operations of General Washington, against the Kings troops in New Jersey, from the 26th, of December, 1776, to the 3d. January 1777.* William Faden, London, 1777. On file at the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C.

1849 *Map of the City of Trenton*, J.C. Sidney. Philadelphia: M. Dripps Publisher, 1849. On file at the Rutgers Cartography Site <<http://mapmaker.rutgers.edu/MAPS.html>>.

1872 *Map of the City of Trenton, Mercer Co., N.J.* On file at the Rutgers Cartography Site <<http://mapmaker.rutgers.edu/MAPS.html>>.

1884 *Guide Map of Trenton and Suburbs* in Fitzgerald's Trenton and Mercer County Directory. E. Robinson, New York. On file at the Rutgers Cartography Site <<http://mapmaker.rutgers.edu/MAPS.html>>.

1890, 1908, 1950, and 1967 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of the City of Trenton.

*Business Section, Trenton, N.J.* Springfield, MA: Nirenstein's National Realty Map Company, ca. 1950.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number 10 Page 1

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property being nominated consists of the entirety of Lot 2 in Block 5 of the tax map of the City of Trenton, which includes the church, cemetery and surrounding landscaped areas. Beginning approximately 82 feet from the northeast corner of East State and North Broad Streets, the boundary of the nominated property proceeds eastwards 247.9 feet along East State Street, then northward along the eastern property line for a distance of 138.11 feet. From this point, the boundary proceeds westward along the northern boundary for 241 feet and then turns southward along the western boundary for 126 feet to meet its starting point 82 feet from the intersection of East State and North Broad Streets.

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property is limited to Lot 2 in Block 5, as it contains all extant elements historically associated with this resource.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number Photographs Page 1

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

### For All Photographs:

Property Name: First Presbyterian Church  
Property Location: City of Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey  
Photographer: Tyreen A. Reuter  
Date: August, 2003  
Location of Negatives: ARCH<sup>2</sup>, Inc.  
16 Wernik Place  
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840-2422

Photograph No. 1 of 31: View looking northeast across East State Street towards the main (south) façade of the First Presbyterian Church.

Photograph No. 2 of 31: View looking west at the decorative iron fencing that lines the southern boundary of the church property.

Photograph No. 3 of 31: View looking north across East State Street towards the main (south) church entrance.

Photograph No. 4 of 31: View looking northwest from the rear of the church property towards East Hanover Street.

Photograph No. 5 of 31: View looking north across the cemetery plots in the east yard of the church towards the eastern addition.

Photograph No. 6 of 31: View looking northwest across the cemetery plots in the west yard of the church.

Photograph No. 7 of 31: View looking southwest towards the burial plots in the west yard and the decorative iron fencing that separates the church property from East State Street.

Photograph No. 8 of 31: View looking east towards the sandstone upright slab marking the grave of Reverend David Cowell in the west yard.

Photograph No. 9 of 31: View looking southeast towards a marble table stone in the west yard.

Photograph No. 10 of 31: View looking west in the west yard towards an ornate pedestal stone surrounded by cast iron picket fencing.

Photograph No. 11 of 31: View (detail) looking northeast towards the steeple.

Photograph No. 12 of 31: View looking north towards the main (south) entrance doors to the church.

Photograph No. 13 of 31: View looking west towards the dated marble tablet and door located at the

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number Photographs Page 2

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western end of the main entrance's recessed portico.

Photograph No. 14 of 31: View looking southwest across the west yard and cemetery plots towards the eastern elevation of the church.

Photograph No. 15 of 31: View looking northeast across the cemetery plots in the west yard of the church towards the western elevation of the church.

Photograph No. 16 of 31: View looking southeast towards the western elevation of the church and the steeple.

Photograph No. 17 of 31: View looking southeast towards the rear (north) and west elevations of the church.

Photograph No. 18 of 31: Interior view of the eastern portion of the ground floor vestibule and the stairs leading to the second floor nave (on the left) and basement (on the right).

Photograph No. 19 of 31: Interior view of the stairs between the second floor nave and ground-floor vestibule.

Photograph No. 20 of 31: Interior view of the pulpit, columns, and flanking pilasters.

Photograph No. 21 of 31: Detailed interior view of the pulpit.

Photograph No. 22 of 31: Interior view looking southeast across the ground floor of the church's nave.

Photograph No. 23 of 31: Interior view of the stairs that are located in the southeastern corner of the ground floor nave and that lead to the gallery.

Photograph No. 24 of 31: Interior view from the north end of the nave towards the pulpit, pews, gallery, and organ.

Photograph No. 25 of 31: Interior view looking southeast of the gallery floor and organ.

Photograph No. 26 of 31: Interior view looking west towards the pews and fluted columns supporting the gallery.

Photograph No. 27 of 31: Interior view from the south end of the ground floor nave towards the pews, fluted columns, and stairs leading to the gallery.

Photograph No. 28 of 31: Interior view of the secular assembly room at the basement level.

Photograph No. 29 of 31: Interior view of the basement level passageway that leads from the ground floor vestibule's eastern staircase to the secular assembly room.

Photograph No. 30 of 31: Interior view of gravestones located under the floor of the southwest corner of the basement level.

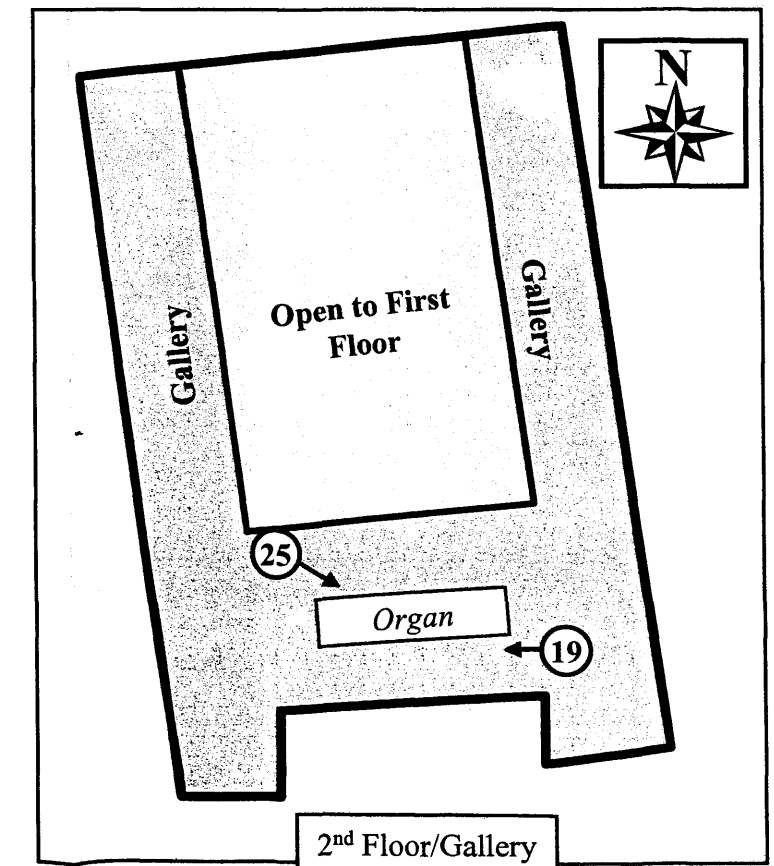
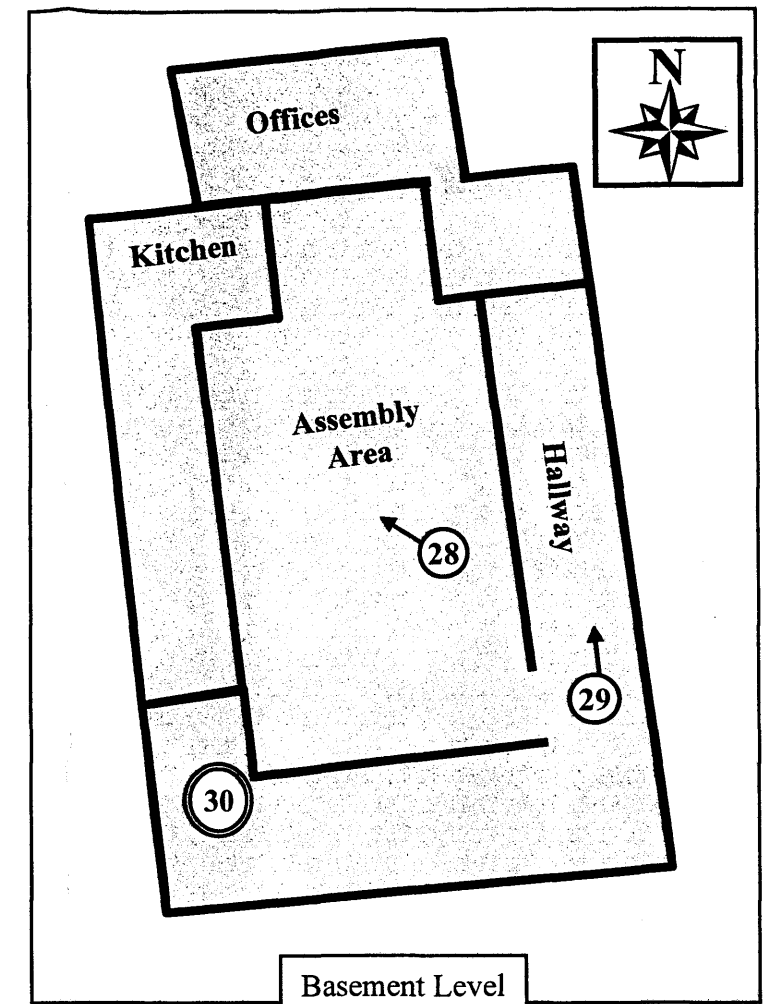
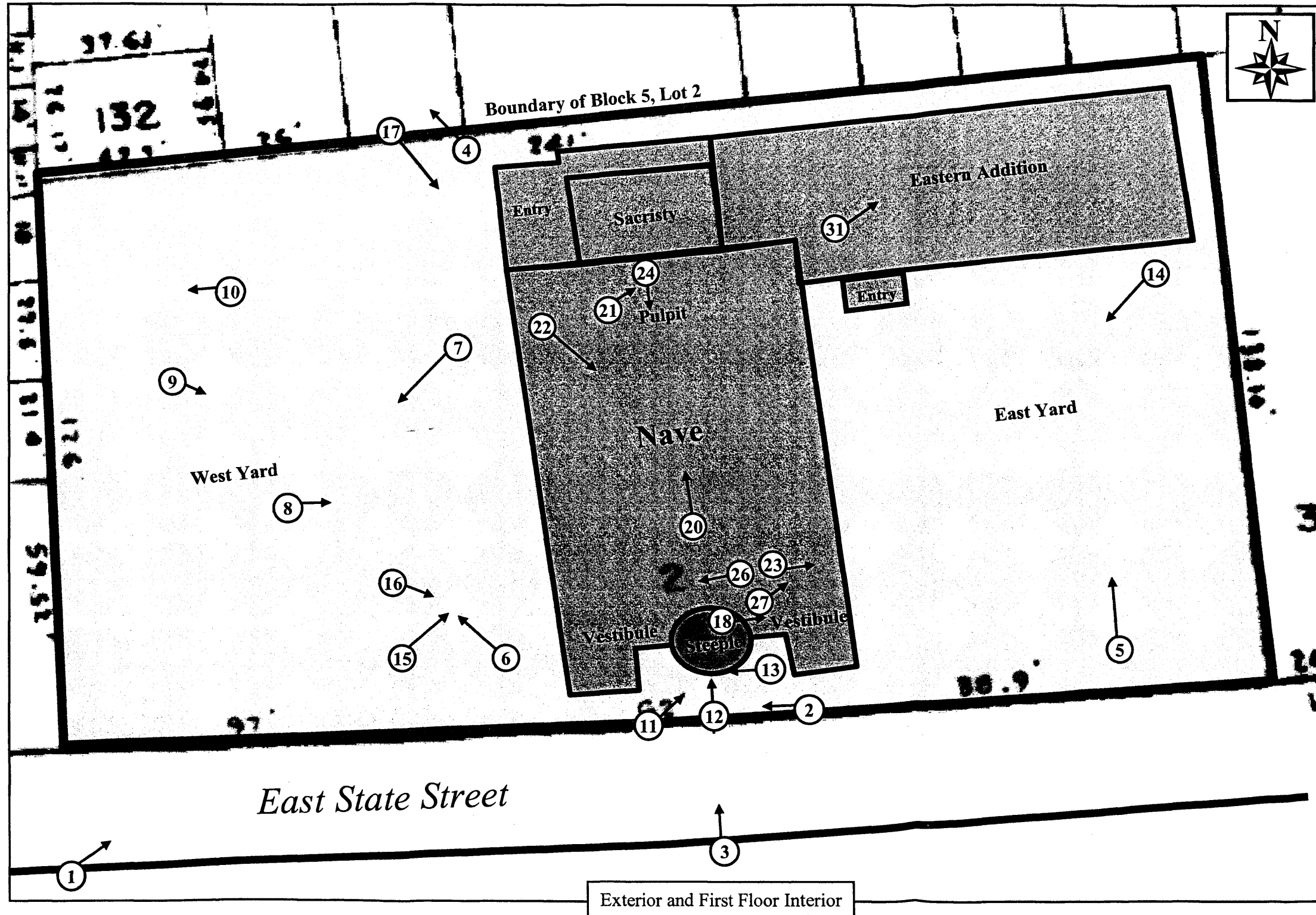
Photograph No. 31 of 31: Interior view of the public space in the eastern addition.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Site Plan and  
Section number Photograph Key Page 1

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey



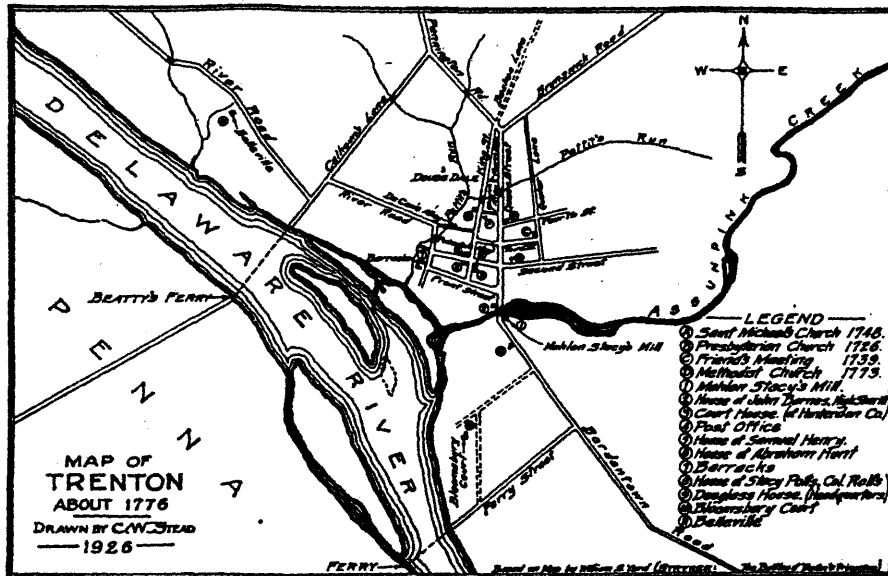
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

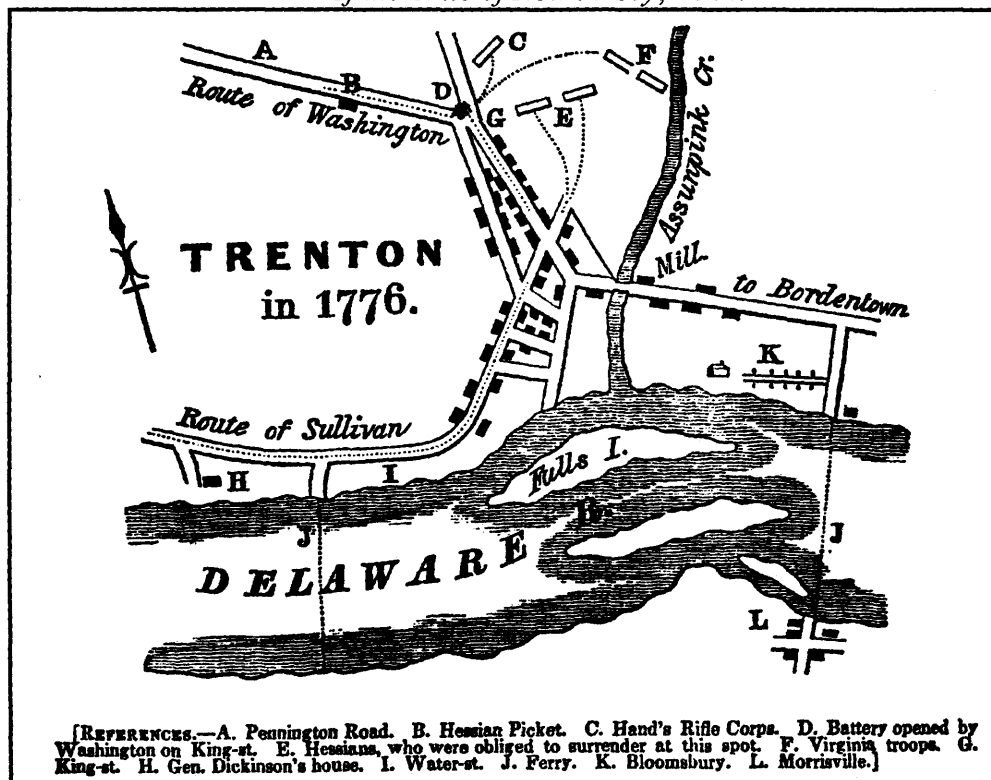
First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number Historic Maps Page 1

Map of Trenton ca. 1776, re-drawn by C.W. Stead, 1926.



Map of Trenton ca. 1776, re-drawn in Barber's *Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey*, 1844.





NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONVENTION SUBJECT

Five Presbyterian Churches and  
Congregations, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number (Historic Map) Page 4

1849 Silver Map of the City of Trenton

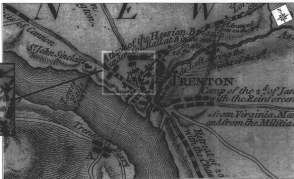


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONVENTION TRAIL MILE

Serial number (State Maps) Page 1

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

1777 William Feltner's Plan of the Operations of General Washington's Army at the Battle of Red Bank, from the 26th of December, 1776, to the 22d January 1777.

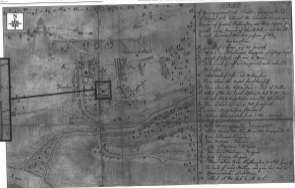


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONSERVATION SHEET

Section number (State/Highway) Page 2

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

On 17th Andrew Wroth's Roll (Book of the Engagement) at Trenton, Given at the 24th of December 1776 Before  
the American Troops under Command of General Washington, and three British Engineers under Command of  
Colonel Bull, in which the latter is Per-secuted themselves Prisoner of War.



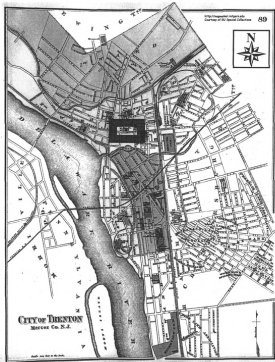
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Historic Maps Page 5

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

1872 Map of the City of Trenton, Mercer Co., N.J.



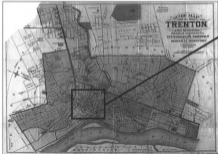
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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONSTITUTION SHEET

Series number: Historic Maps Page 2

First Presbyterian Church and  
Congregational Church  
County, New Jersey

1884 Robinson Guide Map of Trenton and Environs.



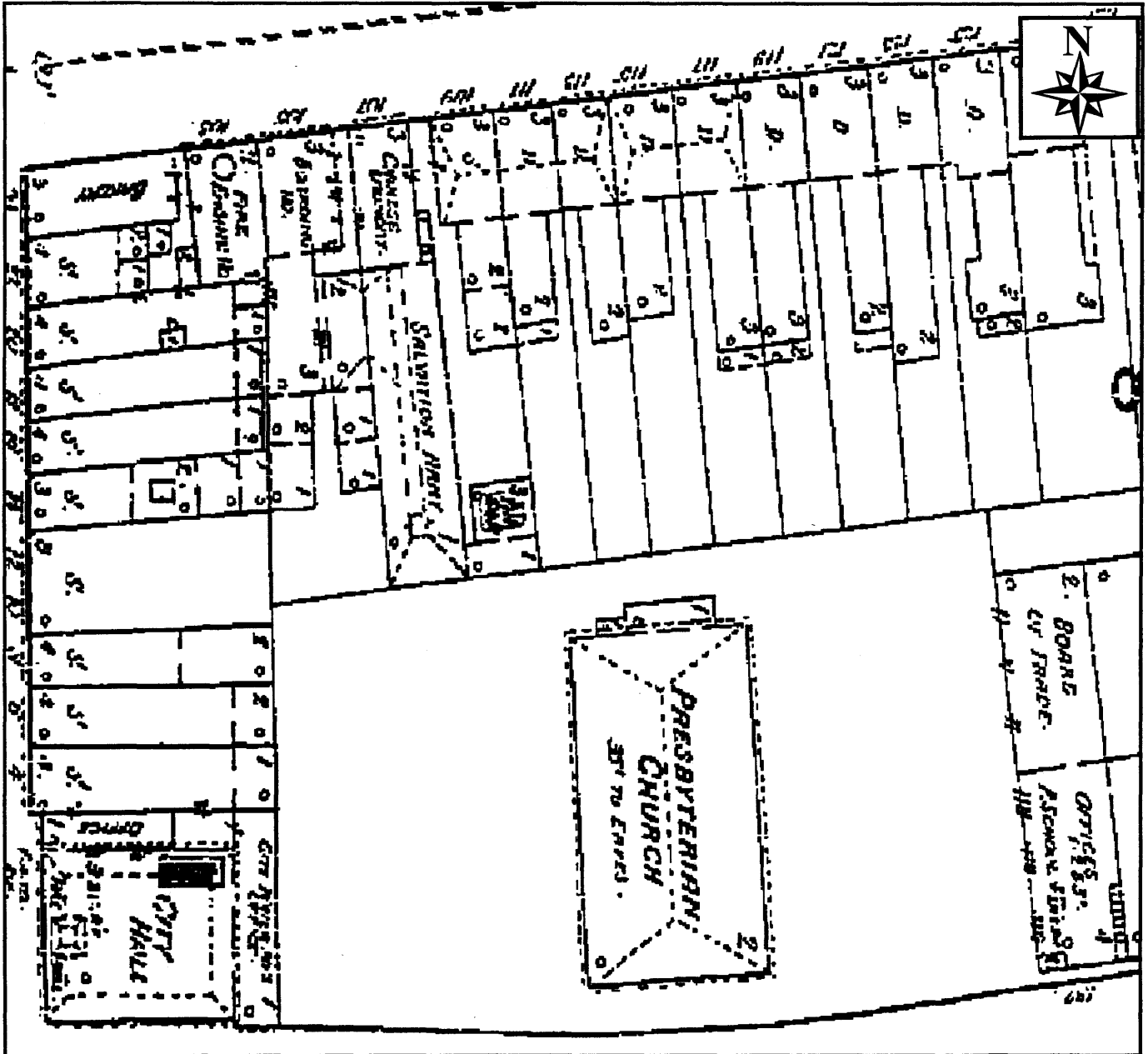
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number Historic Maps Page 7

1890 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of the City of Trenton.



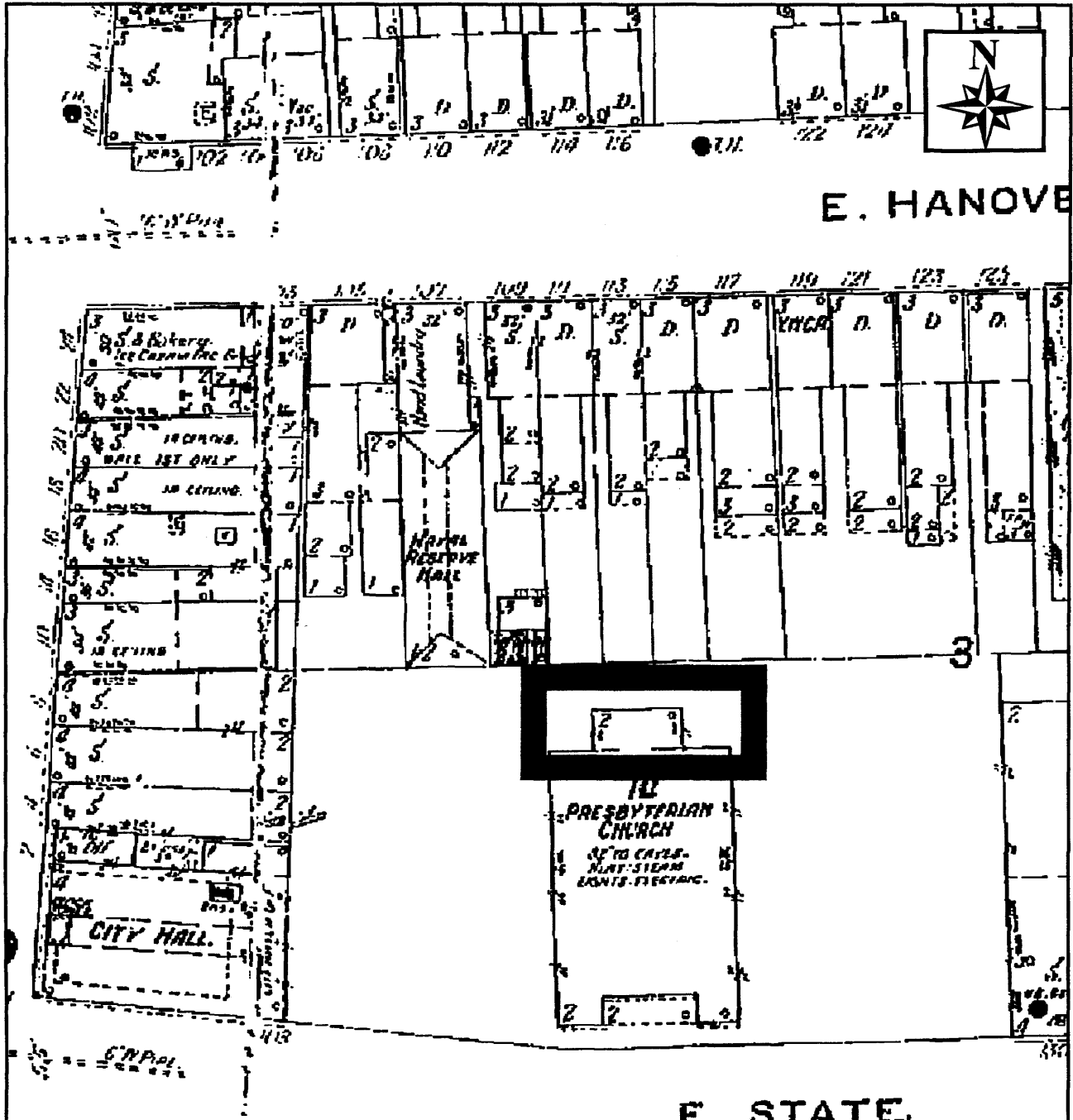
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number Historic Maps Page 8

1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of the City of Trenton.



*Note addition to the rear (north end) of the church.*

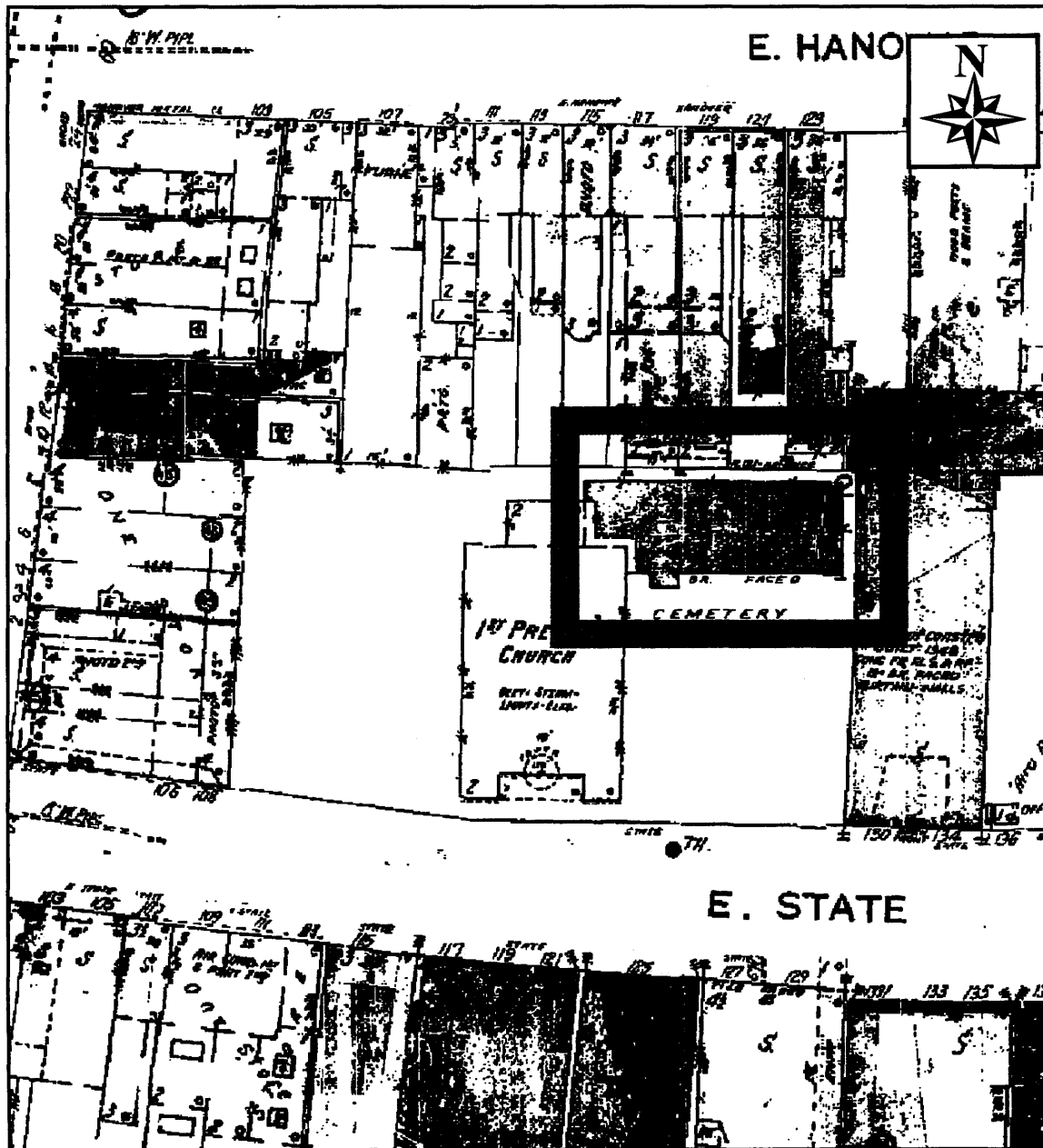
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number Historic Maps Page 9

1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of the City of Trenton.



*Note addition to the east of the church.*





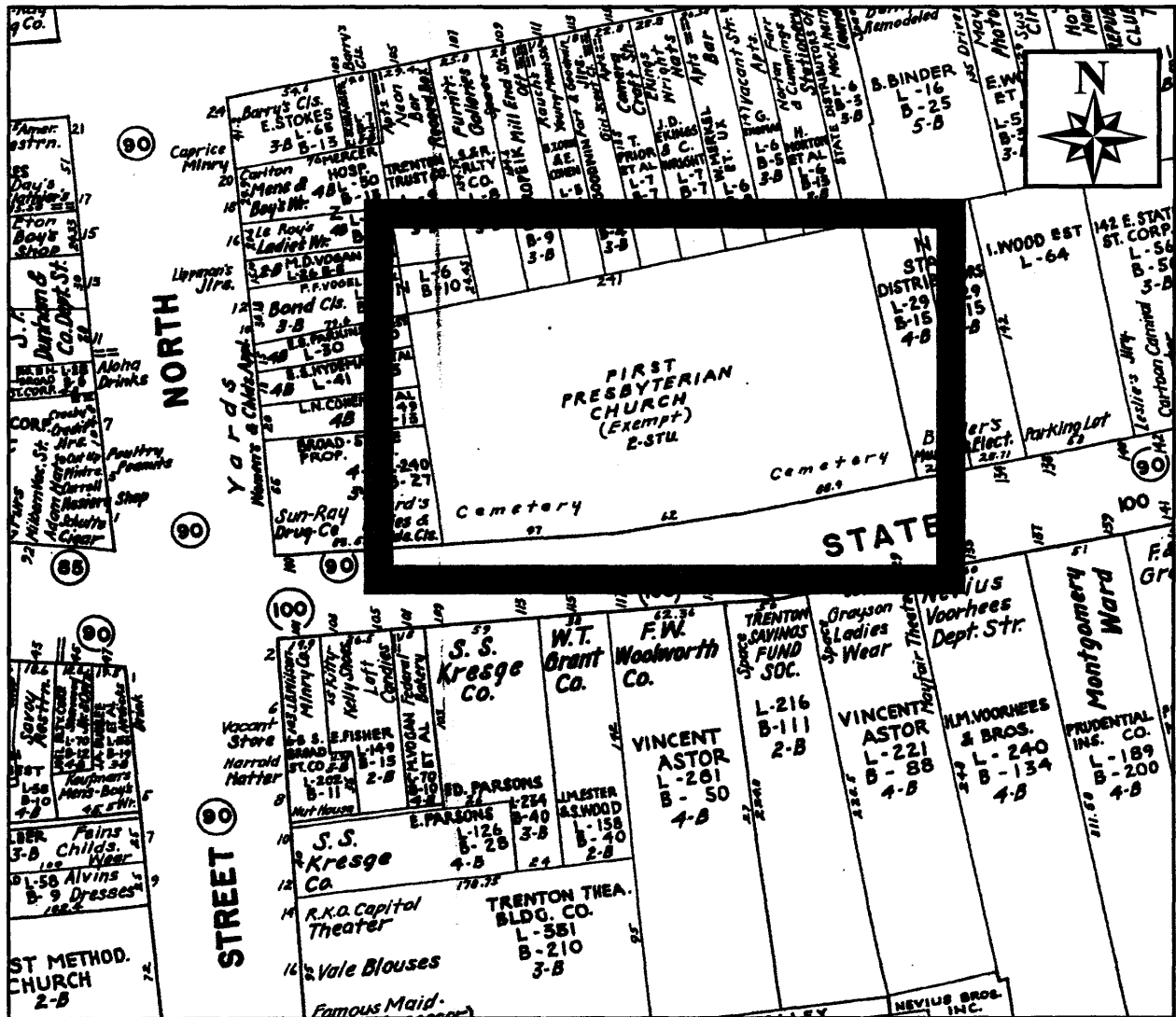
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number Historic Maps Page 11

Nirenstein's Business Section, Trenton, N.J., ca. 1950.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number Historic Images Page 1

Old Stone Church, built 1726

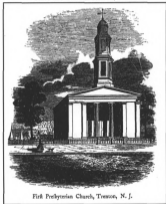


Images of the 1726, 1806, and 1839 churches from John Hall's *History of the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton, N.J.: From the Settlement of the Town, 1859.*

Second Church, built 1806



Third and Current Church, built 1839



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Historic Images Page 2

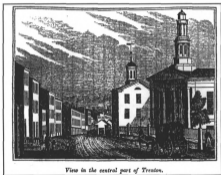
First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Image of the 1839  
First Presbyterian  
Church in Woodward  
and Hageman's  
*History of Burlington  
and Mercer Counties,  
New Jersey, 1883.*

Image of the 1839 First  
Presbyterian Church in Barber's  
*Historical Collections of the State  
of New Jersey, 1844.*



View in the central part of Trenton.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Historic Images Page 3

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey



First Presbyterian Church, Trenton, N. J.

Postcard view of the  
First Presbyterian  
Church in Trenton,  
Postmarked 1905.

Postcard view of the  
First Presbyterian  
Church in Trenton,  
Postmarked 1909.



Presbyterian Church organized in 1712. Trenton, N. J.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_ Page 9

Inscriptions on Tombstones Under the Church.

Made by Thomas S. Chambers at the time the General Alterations  
and Repairs were Made to the Church in 1902.

THIS MONUMENT

IS ERECTED

TO THE MEMORY OF

BARNT AND MARY DEKLYN

By their Daughter as a mark  
of her affectionate remembrance and of the place  
where all that remains of them on earth reposes

BARNT DEKLYN

was born in Boston

Oct 31<sup>st</sup> A. D. 1745

and died on his farm, near Trenton N. J.

Sepr. 1<sup>st</sup> 1824

in the 79<sup>th</sup> year of his age

MARY DEKLYN

was born in New York

Jany. 29<sup>th</sup> A. D 1749

and departed this life

March 11<sup>th</sup> 1825

in the 77<sup>th</sup> year of her age

No more O pale destroyer boast

Thy universal sway

To Heav'n born souls thy sting is lost

Thy night, the gate of day.

Immortal wonders: boundless things

In those dear worlds appear

Prepare me Lord to stretch my wings

And in those glories share.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

First Presbyterian Church and  
Cemetery, Trenton, Mercer  
County, New Jersey

Section number Cemetery Page 10

AMZA, SON OF  
OGDEN & MARY WOODRUFF

who departed this life  
Octr. 16<sup>th</sup> 1782  
Aged 8 months  
& 26 days

---

BENEATH THIS MARBLE  
LIES THE BODY OF  
Mr. SIMEON WORLOCK

Born and educated in England  
He went at the age of 19 years  
to St. Domingo where he resided  
until the Insurrection in 1791 when  
he was forced to fly for Safety with  
his Family and friends leaving  
behind an ample Fortune having pur-  
chased the Bloomsbury estate near  
this place, he lived to enjoy it but  
three weeks, departed this life on  
the 23<sup>d</sup> of July 1792 in the 35<sup>th</sup>  
year of his age

At his own request he was buried in  
this Church Yard  
He lived beloved and died lamented.

---

IN  
MEMORY OF  
ASEL BILDEN  
who departed this life

July 2<sup>d</sup> 1820  
in the 32<sup>d</sup> year  
of his age.

SACRED  
TO THE MEMORY OF  
JULIA ANN RANDALL  
CONSORT OF  
ARCHIBALD RANDALL  
of the City of Philadelphia.

In the various relations of this life  
she sustained the well merited character  
of an affectionate Daughter and Sister,  
a most exemplary Wife and Mother  
and a faithful and sincere Friend.  
After a painful and long protracted  
illness which she bore with the  
resignation of a true Christian  
she resigned her soul to her God  
on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of June A. D. 1829  
aged 32 years.

---

IN  
MEMORY OF  
Mr. THOMAS STEVENS

who departed this life  
March 30 1777  
Aged 58 years

---

ADRAIN RENAUDET  
FURMAN

Born 15<sup>th</sup> Decr 1768  
Died 12<sup>th</sup> July 1794

---

SILAS, SON OF  
OGDEN & MARY WOODRUFF

who departed this life  
Sep<sup>r</sup>. 26<sup>th</sup> 1782  
Aged 3 years & 17 days