

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 29 1980  
DATE ENTERED SEP 29 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Deerfield Presbyterian Church  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION** *NE of Seabrook*

STREET & NUMBER Northwest corner of Bridgeton to Deerfield  
Pike and Seeley Road  
CITY, TOWN *Seabrook me* VICINITY OF 2nd  
Upper Deerfield Township  
STATE New Jersey CODE 034 COUNTY Cumberland CODE 011

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Deerfield Presbyterian Church  
STREET & NUMBER  
N.W. Corner of Bridgeton to Deerfield Pike and Seeley Road  
CITY, TOWN Upper Deerfield Township VICINITY OF STATE New Jersey

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cumberland County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
Fayette and Broad Street  
CITY, TOWN Bridgeton STATE New Jersey

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Cumberland County Register of Historic Structures and Sites  
DATE  
1978  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
County Planning Board  
CITY, TOWN Bridgeton STATE New Jersey

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Set on a six acre wooded site which incorporates the old cemetery, Deerfield Presbyterian Church today is a rectangular stone building with a projecting central entrance tower and wood belfry on the south gable end. The east and west elevations have tall round-arched windows with 26/20 lights surmounted by simple stone voussoirs. The east facade is composed of coursed ashlar laid up in a Flemish bond pattern; stonework on the other sides is smoothfaced, but uncoursed. The main entrance through the central tower has wood-paneled double doors and a round-arched fanlight above. Below the wood-shingled roof and belfry is a simple bracketed cornice.

The interior has two rows of wooden pews. The walls and carved ceiling are white; wainscoting below the sills matches the pews. The north end incorporating the pulpit, choir pews and organ is narrower and slightly raised from the main body of the church.

The present appearance of the church is the result of extensive alterations, most notably in 1858, 1907, and 1947. Built in 1771 on a 1/3 acre triangular lot, the church was originally a rectangular structure measuring 38' x 48'. Its main entrance was on the finely dressed east elevation. Multi-paned rectangular sash windows on the east, west and south elevations illuminated the first story and gallery above. The whitewashed interior had a high octagonal pulpit on the west side, box pews, brick-paved aisles, arched ceiling and a three-sided gallery.

The church remained relatively unchanged until 1858 when D.A.R. Randolph, an architect from Bridgeton was hired to draw up renovation plans. Twenty-five feet were added to the North end of the church. The pulpit was moved to this addition and fenestration and entrance orientation of the building were changed. Five tall round-arched windows with 36 panes of clear glass replaced the original windows on the east elevation and the main entrance was moved to the south gable end. The brick floors were replaced with wood, the gallery was shortened and seating in the balcony limited to the south end. The curved ceiling, previously altered, was restored.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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Deerfield Presbyterian Church  
Cumberland County, New Jersey

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### Description (continued)

In 1907 several additional alterations were made. The central tower and belfry were built onto the south elevation for the main entrance. A small side entry room, now used as a choir room, was added to the east elevation. The 1858 windows were replaced with leaded glass.

Efforts to procure a pipe organ in 1947 led to a structural examination of the church which indicated that major repairs were necessary. The resulting renovation took the form of a freely-interpreted colonial "restoration". The leaded glass windows were replaced with 26/20 lights with reproduction hand-blown glass and the voussoirs above reshaped. The present appearance of the main entrance with its flanking addition to accommodate washrooms and the north end where the organ was installed undoubtedly also date from this renovation. Slate flooring was installed and the bodies of Reverend Enoch Green and Reverend John Brainnard who had been buried beneath the church floor were dug up and reburied east of the church walls.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1771

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Deerfield Presbyterian Church, the oldest church in Upper Deerfield and one of the oldest in the county, is significant in the growth and development of the area. Built in 1771, it is one of the earliest structures of any kind still standing in the township. Although extensively altered over the years, the church remains a handsome stone building. The alterations reflect the changes in both architectural taste and liturgical style of the Deerfield Presbyterian community over 200 years.

In the 1730's Presbyterians from nearby Fairfield and Greenwich settled the area and formed a Presbyterian society. In 1732 a log schoolhouse was built and in 1737 a log meeting house for public worship. At the urging of Reverend Enoch Green who arrived in 1767 and established a noted classical school for young men at the parsonage, the congregation made plans to build a larger church. In 1771 a 1/3 acre triangular plot of land near the burial ground was purchased. The church was built of Jersey sandstone, and, as there was no quarry in the area, the congregation gathered the stones from their farms and outlying fields.

Although the Presbyterian Church is one of the oldest structures in the township (the log school, meeting house, parsonage and many of the early houses are no longer standing) its primary significance is less as an 18th century artifact than as a building in continuous use which reflects changing tastes in architecture and Presbyterian liturgy. Originally, the church was similar in form and materials to the nearby contemporary Fairfield Presbyterian Church (listed in the National Register in 1977). Both were plain rectangular buildings with coarsed ashlar sandstone and main entrance on the eaves elevation. Multi-paned windows illuminated the first floor and balcony which extended on three sides focusing on the high pulpit across from the entranceway. But while the Fairfield Church, used until 1850, remains in close to original condition, the Deerfield Church, in continuous use, reflects 19th and 20th century change.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Palmer, F. Alan, The Presbyterian Parish of Deerfield Street 1737-1971, 1971.  
 Snyder, A.J., The 150th Anniversary of the Deerfield Presbyterian Church, Historical Sermons and Addresses, 1887.  
 Derry, Ellis L. Old and Historic Churches of New Jersey, 1979.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.94  
 QUADRANGLE NAME Elmer, NJ QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>18</u>	<u>47,9</u>	<u>5,3,0</u>	<u>4,3</u>	<u>7,3</u>	<u>3,7,0</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				
C							D			
E							F			
G							H			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the Northeast corner of Block 13, Lot 37, proceed west 231' South along Harrow's Run to intersection of a tributary of said run and then northeast along the tributary to the Bridgeton to Deerfield Pike, North 595' to point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

Revised by Susanne C. Hand,  
Office of Historic Preservation

NAME / TITLE

Mary Sue Greisman

ORGANIZATION

Upper Deerfield Township Historical Commission

DATE

August, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Upper Deerfield Township Municipal Building, Highway 77 (609) 451-3811

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Seabrook

STATE

New Jersey

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*John Wilson*

2-1-80

TITLE Deputy Commissioner Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*John B. ...*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9-29-80

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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Significance (continued)

The Deerfield Church alterations of 1858 and 1907 incorporated stylistic features of their times including longitudinal orientation and round-arched and leaded glass windows. The addition of the entrance tower and belfry, and later the pipe organ, represented the liberalization of Presbyterian thought. Ironically, the 1947 alteration, given impetus by the desire for an organ, a frivolity which would have been unthinkable in the 18th century church, took the form of a colonial "restoration". The present appearance of the church with its Georgian-style doorway and multi-paned windows represent the 20th century taste for the freely-interpreted colonial.

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

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



Continuation sheet

Geographical Data

Item number

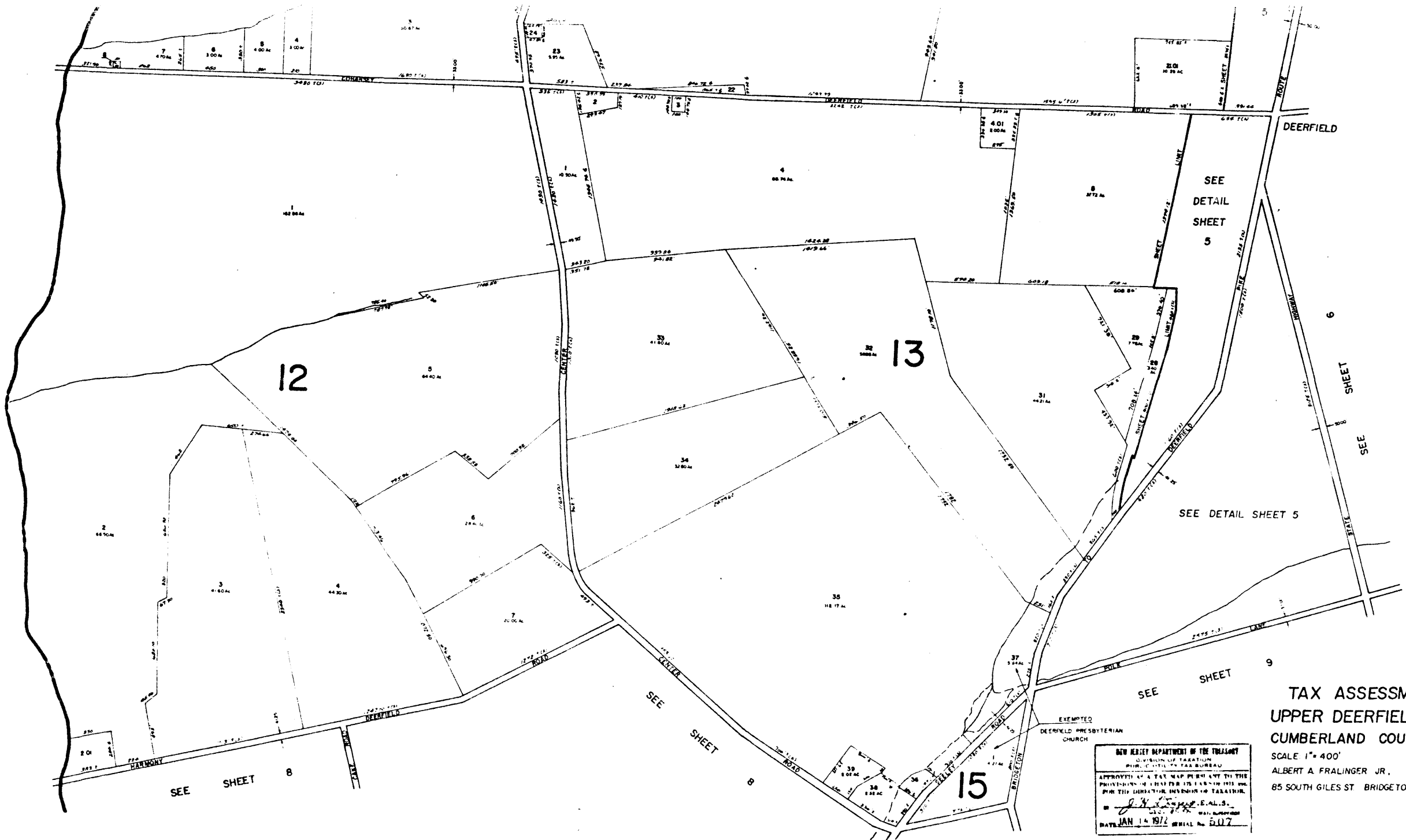
10

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Verbal Boundary Description

See attached Tax Assessment Map for Upper Deerfield Township. Block 13, Lot 37's 5.94 acres contain the church and surrounding cemetery. Block 15, Lot 1's acreage is not included in the nomination, the cemetery containing recent burials.



**TAX ASSESSMENT MAP**  
**UPPER DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP**  
**CUMBERLAND COUNTY N. J.**  
 SCALE 1" = 400'      OCTOBER, 1971  
 ALBERT A. FRALINGER JR., CONSULTING ENGINEER  
 85 SOUTH GILES ST. BRIDGETON, NEW JERSEY 08302

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
 DIVISION OF TAXATION  
 PUBLIC UTILITIES TAX BUREAU  
 APPROVED AS A TAX MAP PURSUANT TO THE  
 PROVISIONS OF L.A.S. 175:1-1.8-10.1 IN 1971  
 WITH THE LIMITATION IMPOSED BY TAXATION.  
 BY *Albert A. Fralinger Jr.* E.A.S.  
 DATE JAN 14 1972 SERIAL No. 507