

DATA SHEET

PHO 694266

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 3 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAR 7 1979

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
Head of the River Church
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

NJ 49

STREET & NUMBER

~~Head of the River, Near Tuckahoe~~

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Estell Manor

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE
34

COUNTY

CODE

NJ

Atlantic

01

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Trustees of Head of the River Church ✓
STREET & NUMBER
Head of the River
CITY, TOWN
Estell Manor

STATE
NJ

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Guarantee Trust Building
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Atlantic City

STATE
NJ

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historical American Buildings Survey N.J.-274

DATE
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN
Washington, D.C.
STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Head of the River Church is a two-story clapboard frame meeting house three bays wide and two bays deep. The building is of simple character, without any decorative exterior treatment at all. It rises from a fieldstone foundation and terminates in a simple pitched roof. The main entrance is a central wainscott double door. Twelve over twelve windows light the ground floor and nine over six light the second floor.

The interior is a two story space with a sloped gallery on three sides. The fourth side contains the paneled pulpit, which is reached by a small stair. It is so high that the minister stands looking into the faces of the people in the gallery. The four simple chamfered columns which support the galleries occur at the corners and at the mid point of each side gallery. The gallery balustrade takes the form of a paneled parapet with little embellishment. Four tapered wood columns rise from the gallery to the flat ceiling. The gallery is reached by a pair of simple half pace staircases which occur in opposite corners, flanking the entrance.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input 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 1813, 1792

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Head of the River Church is probably the oldest extant church in Atlantic County. It is also a fine surviving meeting house from the end of the 18th century. In addition, it was an early focus of Methodism in New Jersey.

The first Methodist minister in the area appeared in the winter of 1780. A society was formed to meet at Hunter's Mill near Head of the River settlement at the head of the Tuckahoe River in what was then Gloucester County. Land was given by Daniel Benezet, a large landowner in the area, and the congregation began work on a church building in 1792. However, also that year Benjamin Abbot, a preacher of considerable note, left the circuit of which Head of the River had been a part. After this, interest lagged, and it was not until 1813 that the building was fully complete.

During that time, Francis Asbury, the first Bishop of Methodism in America, preached at the "Tuckahoe Chapel" several times. In 1839, Head of the Church was separated from the Cape May County preaching circuit along with the chapel of Marshallville, Hawkinsville, Williamsburg, Beesley's Point, and Petersburg. They became part of the Atlantic County circuit, with Rev. Joseph Atwood as preacher. Williamsburg (now Tuckahoe - not be be confused with "Tuckāhoe Chapel" already referred to) and Head of the River broke off from this group and established regular services of their own with Rev. Edward Hicks in 1867.

From 1906 to 1913 Dr. Walter L. Yerks, a local dentist, acted as preacher. In 1914 \$28 was appropriated for construction of the present out-houses.

After regular services were discontinued, Sunday school continued to be held in the church until 1934. As time passed, Tuckahoe became the main church in the area with Head of the River a subdivision of that mission. Today the church is still used, but only once a year for an all day service.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Reeves, J. R. and Lawrence C. L. Head-of-the-River Church an Historic Sketch. Ocean City, New Jersey, 1925 (Revised Edition).
2. Hall, J. F. The Daily Union History of Atlantic City and County Atlantic City, the Daily Union Printing Company, 1900.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 6 acres

UTM REFERENCES Scale 1:24,000

A	118	515350	4351060	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Begin at the intersection of Aetna Drive and Cape May Avenue, thence proceed east along Aetna Drive 670 feet, thence due south 450 feet, thence due west to Route 49, thence northerly along Route 49 to the intersection with Cape May Avenue, thence northeasterly along Cape May Avenue to the beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jonathan Fricker, Historic Preservation Staff

May, 1977

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

109 West State Street

TELEPHONE

(609) 292-2023

CITY OR TOWN

Trenton

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

Ally Wilson

TITLE

Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Prot.

DATE

12-19-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>Charles A. Harris</i>	DATE <u>3-7-79</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <i>Lynn S. Beebe</i>	DATE <u>March 5, 1979</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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Head of the River Church
Estell Manor
Atlantic County, New Jersey
UTMs: E 18 515 350 N 4351 060

The nomination includes the cemetery that surrounds the church. The cemetery has been historically associated with the church since its founding.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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3. Barber, John W. and Howe, Henry. Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey New York, S. Tuttle, 1845.
4. Head of the River Church records.
5. Heston, A. M. South Jersey a History 1664-1924 2 volumes New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1924,
6. Early History of Atlantic County, New Jersey Kutzstown, Pennsylvania, 1925.