

PH0367699

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

FEB 24 1976

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NOV 7 1976

**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

Church of the Presidents

AND/OR COMMON

St. James Episcopal Chapel (Long Branch Historical Museum)

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1260 Ocean Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Long Branch

VICINITY OF

Third

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

New Jersey

034

Monmouth

025

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

__OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Long Branch Historical Museum Association

STREET & NUMBER

1260 Ocean Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Long Branch

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

East Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Freehold

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory 1005.1

DATE

1966

FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

Department of Environmental Protection, P. O. Box 1420

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.,
Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1879,

Frame construction with an open timber roof, it is cruciform in plan with over-all dimensions of 57 feet by 121 feet. The roofs over the principle parts are pitched at an angle of approximately 60 degrees. A twenty-seven foot tower crosses over the nave and transept which rises to a height of fifty-five feet.

The exterior has a brick foundation which extends above grade to window sill height. The next five feet up to the eaves has rounded butt cedar shingle facing. The gable ends and tower walls are done in the same way.

Entrance porches and transept doorways are embellished with wood columns, pilasters and mouldings in the Greek style. All the woodwork is painted white.

Roofing throughout is asphalt shingles except over the tower where the roof is flat and covered with built-up plies of tar and felt. The roof is over the nave is surmounted by a belfry at the front end.

The upper walls of the tower are pierced by narrow slit windows. The tower also has a battlemented parapet. Directly beneath the windows, 35 feet above the crossing are two ruby red stained glass windows, in the shapes of crosses, on each of the adjacent tower walls.

The interior walls are about ten feet high with a four foot paneled wainscot and plaster above. The sloping ceilings are finished with six inch wide, stained, tongued and grooved boards supported on purlins which are carried by hammer beam trusses.

There are two other buildings on the property, one was built for use as an office and rest rooms, the other is smaller, made from the railroad ties that carried President Garfield to Franklyn Cottage. It was constructed in 1882 for Oliver Byron, the actor.

The church has had little remodeling done since it was built. The only thing that has been changed is that a coat of gray paint has been applied which covers the original red.

In 1964, \$7,000.00, was used to renovate the building that included strengthening of the structure and improvement of the interior.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Church was important in the seashore community because of its architecturally unique design for this area. The members and visitors were some of the wealthiest and well known names of the late nineteenth century. It was not unusual for a collection on a Sunday to total over \$8,000.00. The fame of Long Branch as a seashore resort had spread far and wide; as it drew the outstanding public figures of American Life. Men of public affairs and men of finance built their palatial homes on the famed shores of Long Branch. The Church of the Presidents is a symbol of that past era in Long Branch history; a time when it was a nationally renowned resort populated by the famous and the wealthy.

Church of the Presidents got its name because at least six presidents of the United States worshipped here: Ulysses Grant, James A. Garfield, Chester A. Arthur, Woodrow Wilson, William McKinley and Rutherford B. Hayes. There are six bronze plaques on the walls in memory of each.

Many famous people of the era, such as George Pullman of the Pullman Car fame, Anthony Drexel of the Drexel Bank of Philadelphia, George W. Childs, Editor and publisher of the Philadelphia Inquirer and others worshipped at the Church. There is also a plaque in memory of Mr. Drexel and one to honor Mr. Childs.

The church was always without a resident pastor, and open only a few months each year. The religious practices of the congregations of the eighties and nineties were not limited to one creed. Presbyterians like John Sloane, had pews in the chapel. President Grant was a Methodist, yet he worshipped here for many years, even after his term of office was over, for he owned a home here. Grant's friend, George W. Childs, who later gave St. Luke's M. E. Church the memorial window in honor of Grant, also worshipped here.

The building was used very little after World War I. In the early 1930's it almost went on sale at public auction for non-payment of a special road assessment for repaving Ocean Avenue. A group of residents raised \$1,500.00, to prevent foreclosure. The church still continued to be used

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Entertaining a Nation" - Writer's Project; Work Projects Administration, State of New Jersey-1940 (pp. 178-180 - Back cover)

"Woodrow Wilson Centennial-1956" -Woodrow Wilson Centennial Celebration Committee, E. W. Opie, Chairman, Washington, D. C., December 28, 1957 (pp. 176 & 194)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY lot 1/8 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	58,58,4,0	4,45,72,5,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 Edgar N. Dinkelspiel, President (Revisions - Nanci Kostrub Historic Sites Office)

ORGANIZATION Long Branch Historical Museum

DATE 609-292-2023

STREET & NUMBER 1260 Ocean Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Long Branch

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE October 17, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: Nancy T. Ross DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 11/7/96

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11/1/76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

seldomly until in the early 1950's, when the altar was deconsecrated and the building was given to the Museum Association.

In 1953, the Long Branch Historical Museum Society was founded. Since that time they have collected many articles of religious and historic value. Among these are: the flag that was used to drape President Garfield's coffin; a picture of President Grant that hung in the White House; a picture of President Hayes and a desk and dinner table of Vice President Hobart. There are many other historic momentos contained in the museum.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Newsweek - "Empty Shrine" August 8, 1949 (p. 60)
New York Times July 27, 1949
Newark Star - Ledger November 12, 1964
New York Sunday News Garfield Hut September 13, 1964

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Church of the Presidents
Long Branch, Monmouth County, New Jersey

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 034 PAGE

The Historic Sites Staff has completed additional research on the Church of the Presidents and its relationship to Edward Tuckerman Potter.

Along with documentary background this office was in contact with a Ms. Sarah Landow, a PhD candidate at Columbia University who is completing her dissertation on Potter. Her information and research indicates that Potter definitely did not design the Church of the Presidents.

Ms. Landow's information together with this office's biographical search on Potter would lead us to recommend that, while we feel it is significant as an unaltered 1879 church, it can not be associated with Potter.