

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **SEP 2 1990**
DATE ENTERED **NOV 25 1990**

**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
Calvary Baptist Church
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION *SW of Ocean View at*

STREET & NUMBER
~~Corner of Seaville Road and N.J. Highway Route 9~~ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN *Ocean View vic.* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Dennis Township (Ocean View) VICINITY OF *2nd*
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
New Jersey *034* *Cape May* *009*

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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
Calvary Baptist Church
STREET & NUMBER
422 Shore Road
CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE
Ocean View *New Jersey 08230*

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. *County Building, County Clerk's Office*
STREET & NUMBER
North Main Street
CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE
Cape May Court House *New Jersey 08210*

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory
DATE
1969-1970 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Office of Historic Preservation
CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE
Trenton *New Jersey*

7 DESCRIPTION

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

The Calvary Baptist Church, which is Victorian, was built in 1855 at a cost of \$2,800. When the church was first built it was rectangular with single center front entrance.

The rectangular block form and many exterior and interior details of the 1855 church are still retained, including the 3 bay linear facade and a gable end front with cornice returns which engage well crafted corner pilasters.

The original front of the church had a center doorway flanked by two long sash windows, but in 1889 a tower extension was built onto the front entrance. The tower is topped by a short spire. The tower houses a bell in the belfry, louvered openings around the belfry and a vestibule on the ground floor. There are two round columns under a narrow gable roof in front of the entrance to the church, added around 1920-30.

The church has a cedar shingle gable roof with boxed cornice, and cedar weatherboarding. The foundation of the church is brick. There were two chimneys and two stoves in the church when it was first built, but there is only one chimney now. All doors and windows have architrave trim throughout the church. The double doors entering the church vestibule and auditorium are 6-panel doors. There are eight stain glass memorial windows in the church auditorium, installed in 1916.

A semicircular enclosure on the side of the front tower extension housed a spiral wooden stairway to the belfry. The stairway became unsafe to use and the stairway and stairway tower were removed.

There is a central aisle in the auditorium and a semicircular pulpit with dentil moulding trim. There is a balcony in the rear of the church toward the bell tower. The floor is random width long leaf yellow pine. Walls are painted and an oak wainscoting goes around the sides of the church from window sills to floor. Church pews are oak as are all church furnishings. There are mouldings around the top edge of ceiling.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input checked="" 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 1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Daniel Hand

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architectural evolution of the Calvary Baptist Church is a physical statement of the continuous importance of this local religious facility. The building has provided a social and humanitarian focus for the surrounding area for over 125 years. The site of the congregation itself dates back to the first quarter of the 19th century.

Architecture

The oldest Baptist Church in Dennis Township, and the second oldest in Cape May County, the Calvary Baptist Church, constructed in 1855 by noted local master builder Daniel Hand, is a fine regional expression of vernacular Greek Revival/Victorian architecture.

Hand was the builder/architect of a number of religious and public buildings in Cape May County. His most noted building is the Cape May County Court House on Main Street in the county seat.

Religion

In 1811 Joshua Townsend and his wife, Sarah Townsend, conveyed one acre and four perches of ground for the use of a meeting house and burial ground, in consideration of the sum of sixty-seven cents.

An Indenture, dated the 26th day of February 1813, at the time of the conveying of ground for the sum of sixty-seven cents, to the Ana Baptist Society lists the names of the forty-four founders, forty-three men and one woman, who subscribed to a certain subscription paper bearing the 8th day of November 1811, the purpose of building the Lower Meeting House.

The Lower Meeting House was replaced by the present church building in 1855. The First Meeting was built by the Anabaptist Society and stood to the rear of the present church property and was very simple in style. Unpainted and with rough weather-beaten boards, the windows were small and doors all opened outward, front door was double battened. There was a windmill by the side of this Meeting House. The Old Meeting House was sold and moved.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Calvary Baptist Church, Dennis Township, Cape May County NJ

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Description (continued)

The Fellowship Hall was added onto the back of the main church building in 1955, which cost \$28,000. This addition has a low gable cedar shingle roof, cedar siding, 6/6 window sash, and a brick foundation. Fellowship Hall entrance is a six panel double door. The pulpit is oak. There are five classrooms, two bathrooms and a kitchen. Two panelled doors connect the auditorium and Fellowship Hall.

There is a small cemetery on the church property. The earliest stone in the cemetery is that of 8 year old Susan Corson, who died September 24, 1825. Sixty-five Civil War Veterans are buried in the cemetery. Shamgar Hewitt, who fought in the Revolutionary War is buried in the cemetery and is the only Revolutionary War Veteran buried in the cemetery.

There are no other buildings on the church property, but the site of the first building (ca. 1813) is at the northwest corner of the nominated property.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Significance (continued)

Its site is at the northwest corner of the nominated property.

On the tenth day of October, 1863, fifty-seven brethren and sisters convened at the Lower Meeting House, that stood behind the present church, for the purpose of organizing themselves into a Church of Jesus Christ. The meeting then proceeded to select a name by which it might be known as a church. After nominations and balloting it was decided to be known as the "Calvary Baptist Church of Cape May." A Council of Baptist Churches convened at ten o'clock on Wednesday morning on November 18, 1863, and duly examined and recognized the Calvary Baptist Church as a regular Baptist Church.

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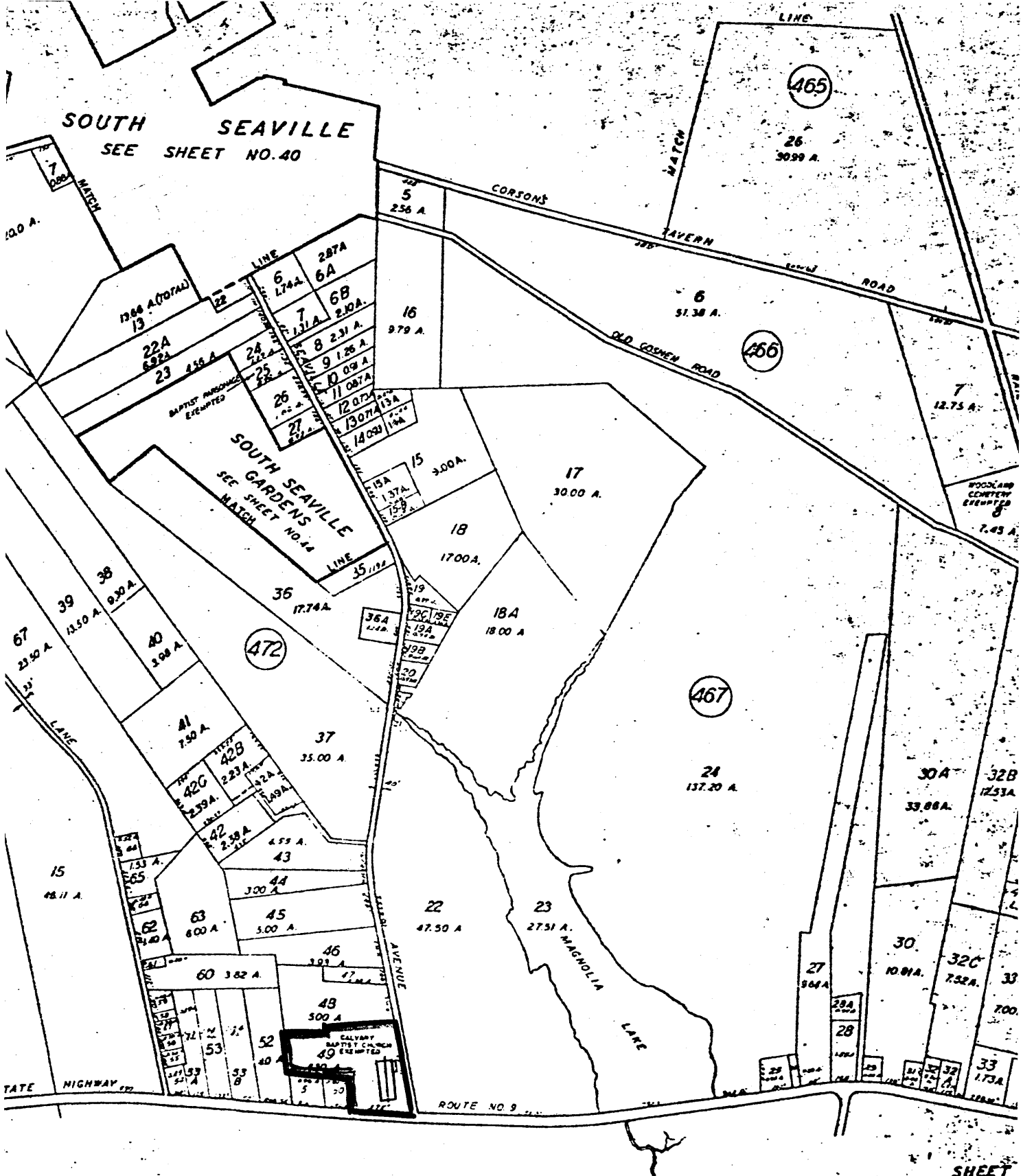
Calvary Baptist Church, Dennis Township, Cape May County, NJ

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at intersection of Shore Road (Route 9) and Seaville Avenue on the South corner of Block 472, Lot 49, thence proceed along said boundary line North 600 feet, thence West 650 feet along North property line, thence 200 feet South on West property line, thence 390 feet East on South property line, thence 200 feet South on West property line to Shore Road, then 375 feet East on South property line to the point of beginning.



SOUTH SEAVILLE
SEE SHEET NO. 40

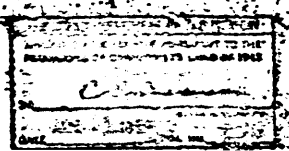
SOUTH SEAVILLE
SOUTH GARDENS
SEE SHEET NO. 41

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
DENNIS TOWNSHIP
CAPE MAY COUNTY, NJ

North



SEP 2 1980



TAX MAP
TOWNSHIP OF
CAPE MAY COUNTY -
SCALE: - 1" = 400' -
CLARENCE DEMAY - LAND SURVEYOR
C.B. MIDDLETON - CIVIL ENGINEER

SHEET