

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 13 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON:  
The Old First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
The Old First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
~~At the foot of~~ West Street on ~~the~~ Brandywine Park Drive

CITY OR TOWN:  
Wilmington

STATE Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: New Castle	CODE 003
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Headquarters of a patriotic society.</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America  
in the State of Delaware

STREET AND NUMBER: c/o Mrs. Harry S. Trentman, President 1970-1971  
726 Greenhill Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington	STATE: Delaware	CODE 19805
		CODE 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Office of the Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
New Castle County Court House, Rodney Square

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington	STATE: Delaware	CODE 19801
		CODE 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Delaware Heritage Buildings and Areas

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Greater Wilmington Development Council, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
300 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1320

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington	STATE: Delaware	CODE 19801
		CODE 10

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

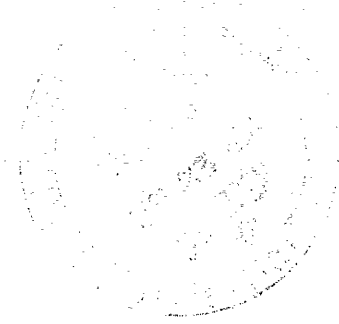
The church originally stood on the east side of Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware, between 9th and 10th Streets. In 1916 the building was moved to its present site on park land owned by the city of Wilmington, Delaware, by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Delaware and the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Delaware.

The building is a simple rectangle 30 x 40 feet.

The brick work on the N.W. or entrance front is laid in Flemish Bond with dark headers, the same bond is used for the S.W. wall which like the front has a door which once served the old burial ground. The S.E. wall is laid in English Bond with scattered dark headers. The same bond is used on the N.E. wall and on this wall are numerals about two feet in height, indicating the date 1740 laid into the wall with dark headers. The brick work in the entrance gable has an all-over pattern of zig-zag lines run vertically in dark headers. A single brick beveled water table occurs on all sides the top of which is about six inches above the floor. Below the water table about one foot of stone foundation wall is exposed of rather carefully laid local granite. All the first floor windows and doors have raised haunches and key blocks formed in brick.

The cornice, which continues on four sides of the building, features a generous plaster cove framed top and bottom by moulded bed, face board and crown moulding of wood. The barge board is tapered and beaded.

The pulpit and high back seats of the interior were probably removed in 1840 when a new church was built. The original paneled walls, however, remain.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1740

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | <u>Historic</u>                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The reasons for the preservation of this building were historical and architectural. It not only was the first Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware (1740) and used for worship until 1840, it was also used by the British troops as a prison and hospital during the occupation of Wilmington after the battle of the Brandywine, September 12, 1777. Architecturally it is a fine example of the prevailing style of church architecture of that day. Only a few buildings of that date remain today and in good condition. It is permanently situated on city park land, and maintained by a non-profit patriotic society.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

History of Delaware 1609-1888 by J. Thomas Scharf, A.M., L.L.D., Philadelphia, L.J. Richards & Co. 1888, Vol. II, page 712-713.

A History of the Original Settlements on The Delaware by Benjamin Ferris, Wilmington 1846, page 252, (steel engraving of Church in situ)

(Continued--.)

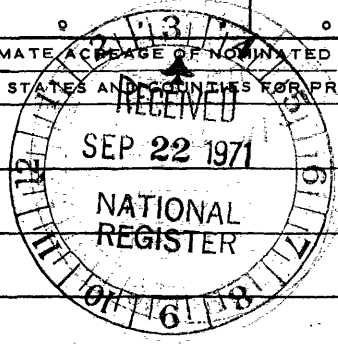
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	39°	45'	2" N
NE	° ' "	° ' "	75°	32'	51" W
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 30' X 40'4"

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Charles Lee Reese, Jr., Member of Board of Directors

ORGANIZATION: The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Delaware

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER: c/o Mrs. Harry S. Trentman, President 1970-1971

726 Greenhill Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington

STATE: Delaware

CODE: 10

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: E. Berkeley Tompkins

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Wiley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/13/72

ATTEST:

W. Bradford  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: April 5, 1972

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY New Castle	
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ENTRY NUMBER APR 18 1972	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Continued)

Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware by Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Cortlandt, V.D. Hubbard copyright by the Public Archives Commission, State of Delaware 1962, page 213.

Historic Landmarks of Delaware and the Eastern Shore by Betty Harrington MacDonald 1963, page 11.

Houses, History and People by Richard Pratt 1965, Library of Congress, catalog card #65-21773, page 218.

