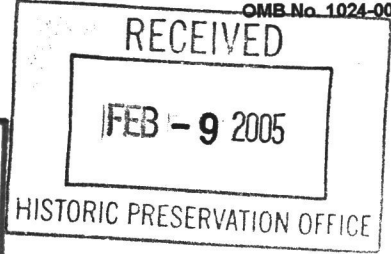
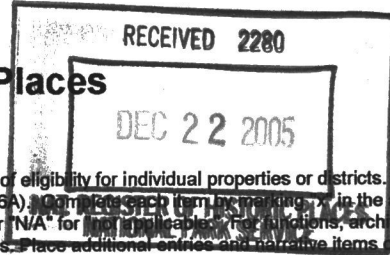


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking  in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for not applicable. For classifications, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name First Baptist Church  
other names/site number Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church

2. Location

street & number 901-907 Bloomfield Street  not for publication  
city or town Hoboken  vicinity  
state New Jersey code NJ county Hudson code 017 zip code 07030

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally.  See continuation sheet for additional comments.

[Signature] Date 7/22/05  
Signature of certifying official/Title  
John S. Watson, Jr., Assistant Commissioner, Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet for additional comments.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] Date of Action  
Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall 2/1/06

First Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Hudson County, New Jersey  
County and State

**5. Classification**

<b>Ownership of Property</b> (Check as many boxes as apply)	<b>Category of Property</b> (Check only one box)	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b> (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
0

**6. Function or Use**

<b>Historic Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
Religious: religious facility (church)	Religious: religious facility (church)

**7. Description**

<b>Architectural Classification</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Materials</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
Romanesque	foundation granite
	walls brick, with brownstone ornamentation
	roof slate, with copper flashing
	other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior  
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Hudson Co., NJSection number 7 Page 1**Architectural Description**

The First Baptist Church of Hoboken, N.J., is a brick-, brownstone- and granite-faced church built in the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style during 1890 and 1891 (Photograph #2). The building consists of a sanctuary atop an all-purpose room built on a foundation several feet below street level, a three-story extension built simultaneously as the church's office quarters and an integral three-story bell tower that rises above the church's main entrance on Bloomfield Street at Ninth Street. The building, supported by masonry walls and wooden rafters, occupies virtually an entire 4,900-square-foot parcel at the northeast intersection of the two streets in an urban residential neighborhood of connected late 19th century townhouses (Photograph #1). Three walls of the sanctuary curve outward toward the western, southern and eastern property lines, creating a nave with a radial seating arrangement. Those curved walls also create small exterior spaces that are filled by, respectively, a small, concrete-paved church yard (adjacent to the public sidewalk on Bloomfield Street), a secondary entrance, a sunken light well and a one-story porch (each adjacent to the public sidewalk on Ninth Street) and a landlocked unusable space (abutting the rear of neighboring buildings on Washington Street), which runs parallel to Bloomfield Street). The building remains in generally good condition. Only a few unsympathetic alterations mar the exterior of the original edifice.

As described further below, the architecture of First Baptist Church primarily embodies the Romanesque Revival style but also incorporates architectural characteristics of the slightly earlier Queen Anne style of building design.

ExteriorBuilding materials

The primary and secondary facades of this corner building utilize materials that emphasize the volume and massing of the building's components. The church rises from a rusticated, dark-gray granite base capped with a smooth, matching-gray, beveled course of smooth bluestone that forms a water table (Photograph #4). The walls above feature tan-colored brick laid in stretcher courses with flush, matching-color mortar joints (Photographs #5, #6). The bricks that frame the building's window reveals and doorway openings feature rounded corners (Photograph #5). Brownstone -- in the form of belt courses and horizontally aligned architectural details, and variously carved and rusticated (Photograph #13) -- divides the building's primary and secondary brick facades into three visual layers (Photographs #5, #10). Slate-tile roofing, and cornices and copper ridge trim cap the different components of the building (Photograph #2). The building appears to be built entirely of masonry and wood, with no iron framing or supports. The only iron building component consists of iron filigree with intertwining floral patterns used a grille on the secondary opening (Photograph #11) and the porch on the secondary facade (Photograph #14). A decorative iron fence separates the property from the public sidewalks on the primary elevation (Photograph #4) and secondary elevations (Photograph #12).

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## Bell Tower

The southern end of the primary facade and the western end of the secondary facade, along Ninth Street, embody the building's highest and most prominent element: a three-story square bell tower (Photograph #6). The bell tower rises from the rusticated granite base. At that point the base extends westward to the street to encompass a set of 11 bluestone stairs up from Bloomfield Street to the narthex that opens into the sanctuary on the first floor (Photograph #7). Large blocks of smooth brownstone cap the rusticated granite walls on each side of the steps.

The first two levels of the Bloomfield Street elevation of the bell tower includes a north-facing extension capped with a conical, steep slate roof (Photograph #6). The base of the small cylindrical extension of the bell tower accommodates a former doorway (now blocked by painted sheet metal). The upper level of the cylindrical extension houses a stairway that circles upward in a counterclockwise direction to provide access from the narthex to the room above. Two small windows, facing north follow the slope of the winding stairway inside. A denticulated iron cornice joins the brickwork to the roof.

The next-highest section of the bell tower (the narthex) accommodates the massive entry to the sanctuary: an arched surround of carved brownstone that springs from the top of the steps and frames a double, inward-opening wooden door. The arch rests upon two carved brownstone bases; the northern base consists of a boy's face; the southern base, a girl's face (Photograph #7). A rusticated brownstone belt course horizontally bisects the entry.

Above the narthex level sits another level, distinguished by a belt course of rusticated brownstone between the two levels and by a single oculus window with muntins that divide the clear glass into 26 clear lites (Photograph #37). The window admits light into a vacant room below the portion of the tower that once housed the church's bell (or bells) (Photograph #38). A brownstone denticulated belt course marks the top of this level.

The topmost of the four sections of the tower consists of a belfry that rises above the building, thereby making all four elevations of the belfry the only building element visible from all four directions (Photographs #2, #6, #9, #17). The western elevation includes three bays facing Bloomfield Street. The center bay consists of two vertical openings that once held horizontal louvers, angled downward to the street, according to historic photos. Plywood now covers the original openings. The north side of the main elevation consists of a square protruding pilaster that contains two narrow vertical slits -- one atop the other. The south side of the primary elevation consists of a chamfered protruding pilaster ornamented with a colonnette that rises from a brownstone base to the cornice above. A steep pyramidal slate roof caps the tower. The roof flares slightly at its base on the west elevation to receive the extra volume of the pilasters. The roof on the west elevation also contains a cutout that embraces an additional elevation of brickwork. Three narrow vertical openings in the extra elevation of brickwork emphasize the height of the tower when one looks at the primary elevation of the building. Decorative copper flashing on the roof of the bell tower further accentuates the importance of the tower.

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Continuation SheetFirst Baptist Church  
Hudson Co., NJSection number 7 Page 3Primary facade

The primary facade runs 70 feet along the east side of Bloomfield Street north from the intersection of Ninth Street. It is asymmetrical. At its northern end, the church-office portion of the building features a three-story squared tower capped with a steep, pyramidal slate roof (Photograph #4). It rises from the rusticated dark gray granite base capped with a beveled course of smooth bluestone. The two upper levels of the north tower feature tan-colored brick with flush mortar joints. A rusticated brownstone belt course differentiates the second story of the church-office tower from the first story.

One bay of the tower faces west toward Bloomfield Street and one bay faces south toward Ninth Street. The west-facing elevation contains an arched wooden double-leaf door in the granite base accessible from a staircase of seven bluestone steps that descend from the public sidewalk. A small decorative-glass window flanks the door on the south. Above the entrance, a large round-headed window with two-over-two sash punctuates the first-floor facade. A pair of small round-arched windows marks the top floor; their stained-glass upper lites remain intact over replacement sashes below. A copper, denticulated cornice demarcates the base of the steep, pyramidal slate roof.

On the south-facing bay of the office tower, a round-arched double doorway opens onto a curved set of eight bluestone steps that lead from the first-floor level down to Bloomfield Street.

The largest portion of the primary facade consists of the western wall of the sanctuary and the all-purpose room (Photograph #5). Rusticated gray granite forms the base of the facade. The base contains three grade-level, double-hung, two-over-two sash windows that admit light into the all-purpose room. Two buttresses support the outward-curving sanctuary wall. The buttresses, approximately four feet deep at the base and three feet at their highest point, two-thirds up the wall, match the facade that they support. They include a granite base and brickwork above. Their street-facing caps take the form of triangular pediments carved from the same type of brownstone that forms the building's belt courses. Three small round-arched windows above the granite base mark the north side of the sanctuary's wall. Three large round-arched stained-glass windows located above the granite base dominate the sanctuary wall. A belt course of rusticated brownstone forms the sill of the three dominant stained-glass windows. Above the curved sanctuary wall, the facade reverts to a vertical plane by means of the ascending courses of corbelled brick forming a pedimented gable flush with the outermost protrusion of the curved wall. The dominant front-facing gable frames three round-arched stained-glass windows that are intersected by a rusticated brownstone belt course. Polychrome cream and beige geometric-pattern tiles complete the design of the gable. The gable supports the west-facing, triangular flat pediment of the building's cross-gable roof. At the center of the roof, at the intersection of the gables, stands a low-slope pyramidal slate roof atop the clerestory windows (now enveloped with brown-painted sheet metal but still faintly visible from inside the sanctuary) that historic photos show as part of a light vault atop the center of the sanctuary (Photograph #2, #18).

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Hudson Co., NJSection number 7 Page 4Secondary facade

The secondary facade extends easterly along Ninth Street for 70 feet from Bloomfield Street (Photograph #10). The rusticated granite walls of the entry stairway, capped with smooth brownstone blocks, constitute the westernmost architectural element of the asymmetrical secondary facade. As on the primary facade, the bell tower forms the most prominent feature of the secondary facade. A gray granite rusticated base anchors the bell tower. A set of six steps from the Ninth Street sidewalk leads down to a small doorway in an opening (now painted white) through the rusticated granite base of the tower.

The southern wall of the narthex rises from the base. It features an arch surround framing two narrow, vertical windows. A rusticated brownstone belt course, an extension of the belt course on the primary facade, forms the sill of the window openings. Below the belt course, at the corner of the building, rests the building's cornerstone: a block of brownstone giving the year that construction began -- "18 AD 90" -- and, on the end that faces Bloomfield Street, a Celtic cross (Photograph #8).

The third-from-the-base section of the bell tower also features, similar to its primary-facade counterpart, two rusticated brownstone belt courses -- one at the bottom of the section and another with supplementary carving in the style of a denticulated cornice, at the top. The smooth tan-colored brick atop the lower belt features a rounded brownstone arch that extends up from the belt course and frames geometric-patterned, cream-colored and beige brick tiles. The polychrome brickwork appears to form a round transom above the rectangular windows below but, in fact, the patterned brick constitutes a blind window; the glass in the window into the narthex ends at the belt course below the false transom (Photograph #10).

The southern facade of the top level of the bell tower differs slightly from its western-facade counterpart in that it lacks the pilasters that protrude from the western elevation but contains four (not just one) colonnettes (Photograph #9). The colonnettes rise from a brownstone sill to meet the cornice. They frame three vertical openings (now covered with plywood).

At grade level on the secondary elevation, the bell tower meets a secondary opening to the narthex: a protruding one-story, round-arched opening, covered with a hipped, slate roof, that accommodates a set of 10 bluestone steps that make a 90-degree turn from the narthex down to Ninth Street (Photograph #10). A narrow window, now sealed with sheet metal, faces north from the projecting bay. Above the steps and under the one-story roof, three stained-glass windows open into the sanctuary.

The largest portion of the secondary facade consists of the southern wall of the sanctuary and the all-purpose room (Photograph #10). Rusticated gray granite forms the base of the facade. The base contains three grade-level double-hung, two-over-two sash windows that admit light from a deep light well into the all-purpose room. Two buttresses rise two-thirds of the way up the facade to support the outward-curving sanctuary wall. The buttresses match the pair of buttresses on the primary facade; they include granite bases, brickwork above, step backs and caps carved of the same type of brownstone that forms the building's belt courses. One the

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secondary facade, the buttresses serve a second function. They not only support the sanctuary wall but only also anchor the secondary entrance to the narthex and form part of the porch at the east end of the building.

Three large round-arched stained-glass windows located above the granite base dominate the sanctuary wall. A belt course of rusticated brownstone forms the sill of the three dominant stained-glass windows. Above the curved sanctuary wall, the secondary facade reverts to a vertical plane by means of the ascending courses of corbelled brick forming a pedimented gable flush with the outermost projection of the curved wall. The gable frames three round-arched head stained-glass windows intersected by a rusticated brownstone belt course. Polychrome cream and beige geometric-pattern tiles complete the design of the gable. The gable supports the south-facing, triangular flat pediment of the building's cross-gable roof.

At the center of the roof, at the intersection of the gables, stands a low-slope pyramidal slate roof (Photograph #9) atop the clerestory windows (now enveloped with brown-painted sheet metal but still faintly visible from inside the sanctuary) that historic photos show as part of a light vault atop the center of the sanctuary.

The eastern end of the secondary facade ends in a two-story cylindrical tower that rises from the building's rusticated granite base and terminates in a steep conical slate roof (Photograph #15) -- a roof that protrudes by several inches over a one-story extension of the adjoining property to the east. The tower contains one small stained-glass window and wooden double-leaf door. The tower joins the main portion of the secondary facade by means of a one-story high porch that projects to the Ninth Street sidewalk and encompasses a doorway with a set of eight bluestone steps that make a 90-degree turn from the doorway down to Ninth Street. A narrow window, now sealed with sheet metal, faces west. Above the steps, and under the porch roof, three small round-arched head stained-glass windows open into the sanctuary. The base contains an opening, now sealed with brown-painted metal, at sidewalk level. Several feet away, within the sidewalk, lies an iron cover to what originally may have been a coal chute into the building's ground-level space. Ironwork with carved intertwining floral details fully covers the porch opening.

### Rear elevation (east)

The eastern facade of the building, barely visible from Ninth Street but clearly visible from the roof of nearby four-story building on Washington Street, consists of an exterior faced with common red brick instead of tan-colored brick (Photograph #16). The fenestration pattern on the east wall matches that of the west facade: three small rounded-arch head stained-glass windows surmounting three large rounded-arch head stained-glass windows. The east elevation of the bell tower resembles the south elevation.

### Rear elevation (north)

The northern facade of the building consists mainly of a party wall with the adjoining three-story townhouse at 909 Bloomfield Street and therefore is unfenestrated (Photograph #17). Only the now-obscured

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light vault admitted light from the north elevation. The north elevation also contains a chimney of plain design. The north elevation of the bell tower resembles the south elevation.

Interior

Ground level: All-purpose room

The all purpose room covers almost the entire footprint of the building. An area at the north end (under the former baptismal pool) serves as a kitchen with a pass-through counter opening into the large room (Photograph #19). Access comes from both a sets of steps from Ninth Street and from an interior stairway from the sanctuary. The all-purpose room covers a footprint similar to that of the sanctuary above but slightly smaller because several closets and utility rooms extend into the space from the south wall. Three windows admit light from Bloomfield Street (Photograph #19). The walls are painted white. Beige vinyl tile covers the floor. Six columns support the sanctuary above; their irregular spacing suggests post-construction mitigation (or prevention) of sanctuary-floor sagging (Photographs #19, #20). A stairway at the southeast corner of the all-purpose room (Photograph #21) leads up to the sanctuary level (Photograph #22, #23).

First floor: Sanctuary

The sanctuary occupies almost the entire footprint of the first floor (Photograph #24). Doorways lead to the entrance, the church-office area and a stairway to the all-purpose room below. The circular sanctuary offers clear sight lines from unupholstered, unpainted, varnished carved-oak pews (Photograph #32) arranged in curves on a raked floor that slopes downward from the south wall of the building to the north wall of the building (Photograph #25). Two aisles separate the pews into three sections. The wide center section contains 11 pews and the two smaller side sections contain 10 pews each. A third aisle bisects the seven rear rows of the wide center section to provide easier access (Photograph #26). Narrow aisles between the sides of the sanctuary (on the west and east) provide alternate access between the front and rear of the sanctuary. Unpainted varnished wainscoting rings the side and rear walls of the sanctuary and contains insets for the sanctuary's nine metal radiators.

At the front of the sanctuary (Photograph #26), a large niche contains a former choir loft, pipes from a former pipe organ (since removed), and infill planks, covered by carpet and now supporting a lectern and six chairs, atop what once was a baptismal pool for use when the church served a Baptist congregation (a congregation of Seventh-day Adventists has owned the building since 1959).

A door leads to the narthex from the southwest portion of the sanctuary. Another door, from the southeast portion of the sanctuary, leads to a stairway of 17 steps down to the all-purpose room (Photograph #27). At the front of the sanctuary (Photograph #26), a door at the northeast corner leads to an office area that opens onto what once was the baptismal pool and may have served as a robing room. Symmetrical to the northeast door, a door at the northwest corner leads to the church office area.

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Carved wooden beams that appear to be walnut support the unfinished dark wood ceiling and the former light-vault above it (Photograph #28), as well as a four large chandeliers with eight bare incandescent bulbs each -- the only electric-light fixtures that supplement the natural light in the sanctuary. A six-bulb chandelier of similar design and barely visible in the now obscured light vault hangs above the center of the sanctuary.

The center stained-glass window (Photograph #31) among the three on the west wall (on Bloomfield Street) depicts Moses leading his followers to the "Promised Land" and memorializes the Rev. A. S. Patton, pastor from 1855 to 1859.<sup>i</sup> The center stained-glass window (Photograph #27) among the three on the south wall (on Ninth Street), called the "baptismal window," depicts John the Baptist baptizing Jesus. The window memorializes Deacon T. W. Thomas, who in 1847 recommended that the two-year congregation purchase a lot on the southwest corner of Third and Washington Streets in Hoboken for the construction of the first of the congregation's three completed church buildings.<sup>ii</sup> On the east wall (parallel to Bloomfield Street), the center stained-glass window (Photograph #29) depicts Jesus holding a lamb and memorializes the Rev. Josiah Hatt, pastor from 1846 to 1854, during which period the congregation dedicated its first building, on the southwest corner of Third and Washington Streets in Hoboken.<sup>iii</sup>

At the front of the sanctuary three sets of small round-arched head windows admit light from the west and east elevations (Photograph #26). The other windows contain written dedications. White paint covers the plaster walls of the sanctuary above the wainscoting. Burgundy carpeting covers the floor.

Narthex

The narthex contains a window (Photograph #33) on the south (on Ninth Street), a double-leaf door on the west (the main entrance), a door on the north that leads to a spiral staircase up to the belfry, a double doorway (Photograph #34) with glass panels that leads into the sanctuary at an angle from the northeastern part of the narthex, a double-leaf door on the east (Photograph #35) that leads to the secondary entrance on Ninth Street, and a stained-glass window on the south that overlooks Ninth Street.

Mid-section of bell tower

Atop the spiral staircase (Photograph #36) from the narthex stands an unfinished room (Photographs #37, #38) below the part of the bell tower that was built to house the bell or bells. No evidence exists of an opening from the mid-section room to the space above -- perhaps a function of an alteration project that sought to seal the bell tower from bird infestation.

Church office and ancillary space

Behind the front (north) wall of the sanctuary are located two rooms used as church offices -- one at sanctuary level (Photographs #39, #40) and the other above. A short flight of steps (Photograph #41) also leads to the infill-planked area atop the former baptismal pool from a small room (Photograph #42) now used as

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another office, that once served as an anteroom for the baptismal pool and also for access to the rear of the organ pipes. A corridor runs behind the chancel (Photograph #43).

#### Alterations

Only a few unsympathetic alterations (apparently made after 1954) mar the original edifice. For example, brown-painted sheet metal covers the pink- and blue-paned clerestory windows (still faintly visible from inside) that once admitted light into a large light vault centered over the sanctuary (Photographs #3, #28). Painted plywood panels (Photograph #2) have replaced the horizontal angled wooden louvers that originally conducted the church-bell sounds through the vertical slits in the bell tower. The panels were added after 1985 in an apparent effort to deter roosting birds.<sup>iv</sup> A satellite dish extends from the bell tower (Photograph #9) and another rises above the porch roof along Ninth Street (Photographs #10 #15). At grade level, a step-down entry through the rusticated granite base into the assembly hall underneath the sanctuary suffers from a recent coating of white paint. Modern window frames replace the original lower sashes in two windows in the office space (Photograph #39). Apart from several modern polyvinyl chloride downspouts connected to period-appropriate copper leaders along the eaves, most of the building's current exterior fabric appears to consist of original building materials.

Inside, the sanctuary's pews appear to retain their original natural-wood composition and placement, but part of the chancel at the front of the sanctuary seems to be missing, possibly a casualty to the current owner's desire to equip the sanctuary with a modern sound-amplifying lectern. The baptismal pool in the front of the sanctuary that, pursuant to Baptist tradition, most likely played a central role in the admission of members into the congregation, remains intact but hidden under planking and carpeting (Photographs #24, #26, #27). Although organ pipes continue to adorn the walls at the front of the sanctuary, members of the current congregation associated with the building's current owner removed the organ itself during the past several decades.<sup>v</sup> (The New Jersey Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, headquartered in Trenton, New Jersey, purchased the building in 1959 and a Spanish-speaking Seventh-day Adventist congregation has worshipped in the building since then.)<sup>vi</sup> During the past several decades, the current congregation reportedly replaced the original slate roof with period-appropriate slate. In addition, the current owner steam-cleaned the brick and also, where necessary, repaired the original copper flashing or replaced it with new copper flashing.<sup>vii</sup>

The quality of the original construction served the building well, mitigating the First Baptist congregation's documented recurring financial problems that, most likely, resulted in deferred maintenance.<sup>viii</sup>

<sup>i</sup> *A Century in the First Baptist Church of Hoboken, New Jersey*, 1945, p.6. Paul J. Somerville, a member of the Hoboken Historic Preservation Commission, assisted in identifying the Biblical imagery of the primary stained-glass windows in the sanctuary.

<sup>ii</sup> *Ibid.* The congregation sold the Third and Washington Streets building and built a second building, at Third and Bloomfield Streets in Hoboken, which it occupied from 1852 through 1891. Prior to building its first completed church building at Third and Washington Streets, the congregation in 1845 started construction of a church building at the corner of Meadow (now Park) Avenue and Fourth

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Street in Hoboken. Gale-force winds, however, toppled the walls during construction and the congregation did not complete that initial building.

iii *Ibid.*

iv The louvers are visible in a photo that Joseph C. Brooks took in 1985. See Joan F. Doherty, book, *Hudson County: The Left Bank*, 1986, p. 85.

v Martha Sosa, church member (personal interview, April 3, 2004). Martha Sosa has been a member of the congregation of the current owner, the Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church, for approximately 15 years.

vi Raymond Jimenez III, treasurer, Seventh-day Adventist Church Conference Association of New Jersey (personal interview, March 31, 2004). Although the Seventh-day Adventist Conference Association of New Jersey holds title to the property, the Seventh-day Adventist denomination grants great autonomy to local congregations, which, as in Hoboken, hold and exercise authority over the use and disposition of church property. Mario Thorpe became pastor of the congregation in 2003.

vii Leonard Luizzi, Hoboken, N.J. (personal interviews, Feb. 15, 2004, May 8 and 18, 2004). Luizzi has lived at 902 Bloomfield Street directly opposite the church for several decades, is a member of the Hoboken Historic Preservation Commission and served as president of the Hoboken Historical Museum.

viii See the single most complete history of the church: *A Century in the First Baptist Church, Hoboken, New Jersey*, First Baptist Church, Hoboken, N.J., Dec., 1945 (a 28-page centennial-celebration booklet published by the congregation, a copy of which the Hoboken Historical Museum holds in its collection).

First Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Hudson County, New Jersey  
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### 8 Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria considerations

(mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

#### Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Period of Significance

1890-1891

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Significant Dates

July 18, 1890 (laying of cornerstone)

September 27, 1891 (dedication of completed building)

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Architect/Builder

Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Hoboken Public Library; Jersey City Free Public Library

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## Statement of Significance

### Architectural and Artistic Distinction

The First Baptist Church of Hoboken, New Jersey, built during the years 1890 and 1891 (Contextual Photograph #1) is an important embodiment of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The building makes a significant contribution to the architectural heritage of the State of New Jersey because the building embodies distinctive characteristics of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture -- with minor Queen Anne influences. During the late 19th century, a time during which the First Baptist Church's 1891 building took form, architects in many communities in addition to Hoboken used Richardsonian Romanesque architecture to create impressive religious venues and public buildings.

The First Baptist Church possesses high artistic values in the juxtaposition of its massive, tall bell tower at the street intersection balanced against the two smaller towers that anchor the two other corners of the building visible to pedestrians (the tower on Ninth Street is topped with a conical slate roof and the one on Bloomfield Street with a pyramidal slate roof). The building's artistic value also derives from its rusticated gray granite base, its two tan-colored-brick facades on Ninth Street and Bloomfield Street highlighted by three horizontal bands of brownstone that span the complex, and three large arched entryways embellished with floral-pattern iron grillwork that shields several grade-level doorways and windows from street-level activities. The tall stained-glass windows on the building's two outwardly bowed main elevations let the southern and western sun bathe the elliptical sanctuary with a warm glow. The Richardsonian elements of the building include the asymmetrical facades, large arched openings, rusticated granite base, belt courses of brownstone and iron filigree. Queen Anne influences play a minor role in the building's design. Queen Anne elements include the choice of brick (not stone) for the street-facing facades, the corner turret, the hipped roof and cross gables, the prominence of those gables and the decorative brickwork that decorates them.<sup>1</sup>

During that entire period, the building remained a local church within a residential neighborhood just one block west of the city's main commercial thoroughfare, Washington Street -- a busy artery from which passersby could clearly note the sculptural *ensemble* of the First Baptist Church's complex massing: pyramids, rectangular solids, cylinder and cone. Early photographs show the First Baptist Church in eye-catching contrast to its adjacent business-district neighbors -- four stories of Italianate-style cold-water flats atop ground-floor stores fronting Washington Street.

### Baptists in Hoboken

The architectural and artistic significance of the First Baptist Church derives from the congregation's efforts to serve the growing population of Hoboken by relocating itself "uptown," literally and figuratively, as the city's population moved northward into the developing parts of the industrial city on the west bank of the Hudson River.

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The First Baptist Church at Ninth and Bloomfield Streets is the third building that the congregation built to completion in Hoboken. Baptists arrived in Hoboken during the 1840s. The earliest Baptists in Hoboken (at that time Hoboken was incorporated as the Township of North Bergen in Hudson County) came from Bordentown, N.J., to work for the Hoboken Land & Improvement Co., the real-estate-development enterprise of Col. John Stevens, inventor and founder of Stevens Institute of Technology, and his descendants.<sup>ii</sup> In 1846, the year-old congregation of 16 members began constructing a church building toward the lower, southern end of Hoboken at Fourth Street and Park Avenue (then called Meadow Street), but, in November of that year, gale winds blew down the just-completed walls. Instead of rebuilding the building, the congregation purchased a lot nearby on the southwest corner of Third and Washington Streets (a commercial corner) and erected on it a meeting hall measuring 25 feet by 60 feet that the congregation dedicated in 1847. By 1852, the congregation had grown to 128 members and it decided to build a bigger church, measuring 47 feet by 70 feet, one block to the west, on the northwest corner of Third and Bloomfield Streets. In 1852, the First Baptist congregation sold the Washington Street building (no longer existing) to the newly founded Presbyterian Church and in 1852 moved into its new building at Third and Bloomfield Streets.<sup>iii</sup>

Less than four decades after moving to its 1852 building, however, the congregation, over some internal opposition, decided to move from its downtown location to the new residential neighborhood that the Hoboken Land & Improvement Company had begun developing north of Eighth Street as early as 1858 and with increasing intensity during the 1880s. A real estate and builders' trade publication announced in its issue of April 5, 1890, that the congregation had selected a New York architectural firm, French, Dixon & DeSaldern, in a competition to draw plans for a brick and stone place of worship on the corner of Ninth and Bloomfield Streets in Hoboken, construction of which would cost about \$25,000.<sup>iv</sup> The trustees of the congregation purchased the building site on the northeast corner of the two streets from the Hoboken Land & Improvement Company on May 2, 1890. The deed lists the consideration for the sale as \$5,775.<sup>v</sup> On June 18, 1890, the congregation laid the cornerstone for a new church building. By June 30 of that year, the congregation had raised \$18,646.37 for its building fund and had disbursed \$9,211.87, leaving a balance of \$9,434.50.<sup>vi</sup>

Although an extensive history of the First Baptist Church published upon its centennial in 1945 (apparently the single most complete published record of the congregation's history<sup>vii</sup>) and the congregation's unpublished minutes<sup>viii</sup> provide no insight into the congregation's motivation for the move,<sup>ix</sup> other resources document the challenges that churches faced in urban parts of New Jersey during the late 19th century. "A rising standard of living made people more conscious of the condition of the meeting houses in which they worshiped," according to one historian of Baptist demographics.<sup>x</sup> "No longer would a simple, inexpensive building do for the business classes who were rising up the success ladder."<sup>xi</sup>

Moving uptown to the new site enabled the congregation to expand the footprint of its building by more than 50 percent -- from a church of 3,280 square feet (47 feet by 70 feet) to one that occupied virtually all 5,008 square feet of the new plot, which measures 71.82 feet along Ninth Street and 69.73 feet along Bloomfield Street<sup>xii</sup>

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The congregation's former sanctuary at Third and Bloomfield Streets, still standing as the oldest surviving church building in Hoboken in continuous church use<sup>xiii</sup> (currently St. John's Lutheran Church), is a smaller, shorter, plainer building than the 1891 edifice at Ninth and Bloomfield Streets.

The 1891 building welcomed worshipers with 16-foot high walls in the sanctuary, a light vault that rose 30 feet from the sanctuary floor to the eaves and a bell tower 50 feet high.<sup>xiv</sup> Unlike the symmetrical architecture of the 1852

building, the new First Baptist Church's asymmetrical design placed the massive bell tower on the street-intersection corner of its site. That prominent bell-tower position put the growing congregation's church in full view of heavily traveled Washington Street 75 feet to the east, a commercial thoroughfare that historically had fewer houses or worship than parallel streets.<sup>xv</sup>

The First Baptist Church's 1891 "corner location, scale and high style convey the presence the congregation wished to project in this city that had once been dominated by the Dutch and Germans, but by the end of the nineteenth century, had witnessed a substantial influx of Irish and Jewish residents," according to a student of church architecture in New Jersey.<sup>xvi</sup> The First Baptist congregation, like congregations and parishes before and after, appears to have utilized not only ministry and mission but mortar and bricks to retain and attract adherents of the religious body's faith.

The building has served as a house of worship and Christian education<sup>xvii</sup> as well as a means for self-improvement, for example, by providing a venue for Boy Scouting<sup>xviii</sup>. During World War I, when Hoboken was "The Point of Embarkation" for U.S. army and navy troops, the church served as a social center for military personnel passing through the city.<sup>xix</sup> At least once during his pastorate at the First Baptist Church from 1935 to 1939, the Rev. C. Robert Pederson preached at a "mass meeting -- Hoboken Roundtable" within the city sponsored by the National Conference of Jews and Christians, probably as part of an effort to counter German-American support for Nazi Germany.<sup>xx</sup>

Although the First Baptist Church served as a venue for typical church-related and community-service activities throughout the period of significance, the historical record contains no evidence that the church served as the site for a significant *non-religious* event. However, National Register Criteria

Consideration "A" applies because the First Baptist Church derives its primary significance from its architectural and artistic distinction.

### Architectural Design by French, Dixon & DeSaldern

Although contemporaneous church records and New Jersey daily newspaper accounts provide no information naming an architect of the First Baptist Church's 1890 building, the *New York Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide* credits the New York architectural firm of French, Dixon & DeSaldern with the building's

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design. The April 5, 1890, issue of the weekly trade publication contained among its brief announcements of architectural commissions the following pre-construction announcement:

Hoboken, N.J. -- The First Baptist Church are [sic] about to build a place of worship on the corner of Bloomfield and Ninth streets. It will be 71 x 72 [feet] in size, of brick and stone, and will cost about \$25,000. The main feature of the exterior is a pretty tower. The plans are to be drawn by French, Dixon & DeSaldern, of New York, the competition among New York and New Jersey architects having been decided in their favor.<sup>xxi</sup>

No other mention of the First Baptist Church appears in contemporaneous issues of *New York Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*.

Nevertheless, a review of all issues of the *New York Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide* from 1890 through 1893 indicates that the firm of French, Dixon & DeSaldern received numerous commissions to design a variety of building types in various styles throughout the New York-New Jersey area, including two in Hoboken.

For example, the item that announced the firm's commission to design the First Baptist Church concluded with the announcement that "[t]he same firm are architects for a three-story brick and stone front engine house, 30 x 75 in size, which the city is about to build on Washington street near 14th street. It is said that it will be one of the finest buildings of the kind in New Jersey."<sup>xxii</sup>

The firehouse at 1313 Washington Street that French, Dixon & DeSaldern designed for the Hoboken city government in 1890 (Contextual Photograph #2) contains many architectural elements that resemble those of the First Baptist Church: sandstone bands spanning the facade, colonnettes, piers of brick, brownstone arches, and a rectangular tower. The building remains in active use as a firehouse (with few alterations apart from an expanded doorway for modern fire trucks and having survived a fire in the 1988). It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>xxiii</sup>

Another Hoboken commission for French, Dixon & DeSaldern was "extensive changes and improvements to be made in the hotel property on the southwest corner of Hudson and 4th streets"<sup>xxiv</sup> -- the hotel that appears on a 1906 map as the Union Park Place Hotel.<sup>xxv</sup> Under French, Dixon & DeSaldern's plan, "[t]he first floor will be lowered, and the interior arranged and finished for stores which will necessitate new fronts. A four-story brick extension, 15x25 [feet] will be added. The upper story will be divided into suites of apartments, each having seven rooms and bath, all first-class appointments. The plumbing throughout the building will be new, and the cost of the alternation will be about \$14,000."<sup>xxvi</sup> (Contextual Photograph #9). The building still stands; conversion of the first floor from storefronts to apartments has transformed the building into an entirely residential structure.

French, Dixon & DeSaldern received other commissions in the wider New York-New Jersey area during the same era in which the firm designed the First Baptist Church. A review of four years of the *New York Real*

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*Estate Record and Builders' Guide* (1890-1893), shows the following commissions for the firm, which included a church, free-standing dwellings and a tenement block and embraced the Colonial, Old English and Renaissance Revival styles of architecture:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Owner</u>
Andover, N.J. <sup>xxvii</sup>	stone and frame church with stucco and timbered exterior; 56x75 on triangular plot fronting on three streets; Old English style; cost estimated at \$10,000; building no longer exists <sup>xxviii</sup>	Andover Methodist Episcopal Church

OMB No. 1024-0018

<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Owner</u>
Rutherford, N.J. <sup>xxix</sup>	two-story and attic frame dwelling on stone foundation; slate roof; 44x50 feet; to cost \$6,000	Lewis Lancon
South Lakewood, N.J. <sup>xxx</sup>	two-story Colonial frame dwelling, with curb roof and stone cellar, to be built at Casino Park; none large rooms besides halls and bathroom, five of them with open grate fireplaces; to be finished in cypress; cost estimated at \$5,300	Henry Alexander
Summit, N.J. <sup>xxxi</sup>	upon 8 acres on crown of Summit Ridge; two-story and attic dwelling in Old English style; 90x16 feet; stone walls, iron framework, Spanish-tile roof with copper cornices; steam heat, electric light; wrought-iron safety bars for windows; stable for 10 horses; estimated at \$75,000-\$100,000	C. Abbott French (senior member of French, Dixon & DeSaldern)
Union Hill, N.J. (joined West Hoboken in 1925 to form Union City) <sup>xxxii</sup>	2½-story frame cottage, 27x50 feet; natural-finish white wood with shingle roof; hot-water heating; cost to be \$8,000	William Barnes
Weehawken, N.J. <sup>xxxiii</sup>	[residence]	no information
Brooklyn, N.Y.	new depot, 19-21 Bergen St. from rear of present building through to Dean St.; 50x100 feet; three stories; brick, terra cotta; \$15,000 for construction and alterations to existing building.	Westcott Express Company
Flatbush, Long Island, N.Y. <sup>xxxiv</sup>	two-story frame Queen Anne cottage, 18x30 feet, west side of Vanderbilt St., near Gravesend Ave.; cost to be \$5,000	J. B. Fenn
Fordham, N.Y. <sup>xxxv</sup>	1½ story frame and stone stable; shingle exterior for	P. Ryan

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	frame portion; to accommodate six horses, carriages, coachman's quarters	
New York, N.Y. <sup>xxxvi</sup>	three five-story and basement tenement buildings at 347-353 West 44th St.; "good intact examples of Renaissance Revival tenements in the southern portion of Hell's Kitchen"; 1892; brownstone; arched entrance porches; projecting	information not included
<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Owner</u>
	modillioned cornices; stoops with decorative iron railing; rustication on first two floors; keystones in form of small, fat human faces; eligible for N.Y. and National Registers of Historic Places (Contextual Photograph #7)	
Tarrytown, N.Y. <sup>xxxvii</sup>	six two-story and attic frame cottages, 24x31 feet; to cost about \$1,500 each	Messrs. Warnock

In Hoboken, on Bloomfield Street two blocks north of the First Baptist Church, one of the three name partners in the firm, Robert C. Dixon Jr., received another design commission at approximately the same time as his firm's design of the First Baptist Church. Dixon designed the three-story Romanesque Revival clubhouse for the newly formed Columbia Club, a gentlemen's society.<sup>xxxviii</sup> The club built its clubhouse in 1891 at the northeast corner of Bloomfield and 11th Streets in Hoboken. It resembles the nearby First Baptist Church in numerous ways. Like the church, the Columbia Club features a cylindrical tower capped with a cone, a rusticated brownstone ground level, tan brick, and brownstone details, the latter covered with cement during its conversion in the early 1990s into a four-unit residential condominium building (Contextual Photograph #4).

Dixon designed buildings in other Hudson County communities, including the Palma Club, on the northwest corner of Jersey Avenue and Bright Street in Jersey City (Contextual Photograph #10), what is now Union City's City Hall, 37th St. and Bergenline Avenue, Union City (Contextual Photograph #11), "many" of Union City's school buildings, Weehawken High School, and the Church of St. Joseph of the Palisades on Palisade Avenue at 64th Street in West New York, N.J. (Contextual Photograph #12).<sup>xxxix</sup> Most of his buildings -- particularly the Columbia Club, the Palma Club and Union City's City Hall display Romanesque Revival architecture with a Queen Anne influence.<sup>xl</sup>

Richardsonian Romanesque Design in Hoboken

In designing the First Baptist Church, the firm of French, Dixon & DeSaldern drew inspiration from the Romanesque Revival architecture that architect Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-86) and his adherents had made popular during the 1880s and 1890s. To a lesser extent, the firm took cues from the Queen Anne style of architecture that preceded the Richardsonian style in popularity.

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Other architects who displayed skill in designing Richardsonian buildings in Hoboken contemporaneously with French, Dixon & DeSaldern were Charles Fall and, to a lesser extent, Albert Beyer. Charles Fall, a Hoboken native, designed an office building, firehouse and apartment houses that contain Romanesque Revival architectural elements similar to those of the First Baptist Church. Fall was the architect of the red-brick building that the Hoboken Land & Improvement Company (Contextual Photograph #5) constructed as its headquarters at One Newark Street, at the intersection of River Street, in Hoboken, in 1889.<sup>xli</sup> The Hoboken Land & Improvement Company building featured Romanesque elements such as massive, squat pyramid-topped towers, recessed panels, contrasting-color mortars, rounded-arch windows and terra cotta. The brick construction and use of massive towers resemble elements of the First Baptist Church. The Hoboken Land & Improvement Company building remains in office use, albeit with the squaring its rounded-arch head windows. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>xlii</sup>

Fall also designed the firehouse (Contextual Photograph #3) at the southern entrance to Hoboken, at the junction of Jefferson, Madison and Newark Streets where they meet Observer Highway. Like the First Baptist Church, that building employs orange-brown brick with brownstone trim and a rusticated granite foundation and, like the First Baptist Church, it featured a rectangular tower capped with a pyramidal slate roof, subsequently removed, and a conical slate roof, also subsequently removed at another corner. The building, named Engine Company No. 1, was erected from 1892 to 1894 and has remained in continuous service as a firehouse. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>xliii</sup>

In addition, Fall contemporaneously designed a set of apartment buildings (with ground-floor retail space) in the vicinity of the First Baptist Church that feature Romanesque Revival architectural elements resembling those of the First Baptist Church.<sup>xliiv</sup> The five adjoining five-story apartment buildings (Contextual Photograph #6) on the west side of Washington Street between 12th and 13th Streets -- specifically 1214, 1216, 1218, 1220, and 1222 Washington Street -- contain carved brownstone lintels that resembled the carved-stone lintels of the First Baptist Church. Distinctive architectural elements of the three northernmost of Fall's apartment buildings -- 1218, 1220 and 1222 -- bear a resemblance to the First Baptist Church because of their non-standard-color brick (yellow for the apartments and tan for the church), rounded-arch windows on the uppermost floor (like those at the church), and denticulated wood cornices above the first and second stories that create an effect similar to the brownstone belt courses at the church. The apartment buildings remain in use for retail and residential purposes; the developer who converted the original "railroad flats" into modern residential units during the 1990s also converted the original street-level stores at 1220 into residences to capture the benefit of a strong residential market.

Another architect who designed Richardsonian buildings in Hoboken at the same time was Albert Beyer, whom the city government commissioned to design School No. 6 (Contextual Photograph #8), a new high school at the corner of 11th Street and Willow Avenue in the newly developing uptown part of the city not far from the First Baptist Church.<sup>xliv</sup> The school (erected in 1891 and demolished in the early 1970s to make for a new school), featured a large entry arch in Richardsonian style that sprang from solid piers and a sturdy bell tower that dominated the front elevation -- elements similar to those of The First Baptist Church.

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Hudson Co., NJSection number 8 Page 8Possible Role of Tradesmen Within the Congregation

Although the firm of French, Dixon & DeSaldern having received the commission to design the First Baptist Church, in-house review and oversight likely rested with at least three members of congregation with particularly relevant experience. Two served on the building committee for the congregation's new home; they were Henry A. Bonyne, a carpenter, and John A. Brown, whose trade was "stone." A third, Thomas S. Field, variously described as a mason, builder, bricklayer and clerk, according to entries for the three men in city directories,<sup>xlvi</sup> oversaw construction of the congregation's 1852 building.<sup>xlvii</sup> During design and construction of the successor edifice, Field still was a member of the congregation.<sup>xlviii</sup> One can reasonably surmise that one, two or all three of the tradesmen-members contributed expertise, perhaps as volunteers, to overseeing construction of the First Baptist Church.

The building committee members -- acting individually, working together or collaborating with French, Dixon & DeSaldern -- likely faced not simply design and construction issues but also felt compelled to address two related issues facing their congregation: the financial strain of building an edifice worthy of the congregation's aspirations and the emotional strain from some parishioners' opposition to those aspirations.

As to emotional strains, the church's centennial-celebration booklet notes, without further elaboration" that [a]bout this time [1891], twenty-five members left the First Church and organized the Second Baptist Church on a downtown site, because they believed that the lower part of the city would be neglected by the removal of Baptists from the Third Street Church to the uptown site on Ninth Street."<sup>xliv</sup>

Subsequent Alterations through 1945

As to recurring financial problems, the same centennial-celebration booklet and other sources illustrate financial strains. Despite the church records' silence on the choice of architect, the progress of construction and the final cost of the 1891 building, church records do describe post-construction additions and alterations to the original design elements -- as well as continuing financial worries that likely slowed the pace of alterations and led the congregation to defer maintenance of the building.

For example, although documentary sources conflict, it appears that at the outset the new building utilized natural gas for illumination, a reliable, known means of artificial light that property owners of the period specified for new construction well into the 1890s even as they simultaneously opted for the new invention of incandescent lighting in expectation of increased reliability of electrical-power generation and distribution. A 1891 Sanborn map shows the First Baptist Church as served by water, gas and electricity, but the church's centennial-celebration booklet states that the trustees of the First Baptist Church added electricity in 1917,<sup>1</sup> a date well after most property owners had become comfortable with the new technology and had either removed their gas-illumination apparatus or converted gas fixtures for use of electricity.

Such a late conversion to electricity would be consistent with other documentary evidence. Recurring throughout the history of the church after it moved to Ninth and Bloomfield Streets is the documented theme of

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declining membership, financial deficits and increased borrowing costs and, although not explicitly described as such in the church's centennial-celebration history, the latent cost of deferred maintenance. By 1928, according to the church's centennial-celebration booklet, the roof leaked and the foundation "was ready to collapse." The church needed a "new roof, new basement floor with cement foundation, new metal ceiling, new wiring, new paint." Although some members wanted to sell the property, the New Jersey Baptist Convention provided assistance and the pastor engaged Albert Humble, a "leading church architect," to supervise the rebuilding. Unfortunately, the cost of rebuilding (unrecorded) exceeded the \$5,000 budget and resulted in more debt.<sup>li</sup> A bequest in 1935 enabled the congregation to repair the organ and stained-glass windows.<sup>lii</sup> In 1945 the church restored the church auditorium (sanctuary) and repainted the basement.<sup>liii</sup>

Missing from the building in its current state are other items mentioned in the church's historical records: the cross above the baptistry made by and given by (dates unrecorded) Mathias H. Taylor, who joined the church in 1890, was elected deacon in 1903 and served continuously until death in 1942;<sup>liv</sup> a bronze memorial plaque in memory of benefactor Florence Gahagan Nilson, unveiled in 1940;<sup>lv</sup> and a military-service honor roll placed in the vestibule shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.<sup>lvi</sup> Also missing from the exterior is the signboard on the Ninth Street elevation above the cornerstone.<sup>lvii</sup>

The trustees of the congregation sold the building to the New Jersey Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists by a deed dated July 13, 1959, for \$1 and other good and valuable consideration.<sup>lviii</sup>

The New Jersey Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, headquartered in Trenton, has operated the church continuously since 1959 as the Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church. The local congregation controls day-to-day operations and maintains the building. The congregation holds services on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

The difficulty that members of the congregation -- most of whom now live beyond Hoboken's borders -- experience when they drive to the building and seek scarce on-street parking in Hoboken has prompted the congregation to consider relocating from Hoboken. At various times during the 1980s and 1990s, the congregation put its building at Ninth and Bloomfield Streets on the market, intending to use proceeds of the sale to purchase a building site or building in a community in which parking would be easy. None of the efforts resulted in a sale.<sup>lix</sup>

One effort to sell the building during the 1990s involved Leonard Luzzi, who lives opposite the First Baptist Church at 902 Bloomfield Street. He joined another potential investor in seeking to purchase the building for adaptive reuse as four residential condominium units. Their architect's design called for condominiums to be built in the former sanctuary atop a garage to be built into the ground level with an entry from Ninth Street. Luizzi recalls that the congregation put the church on the market for \$1 million and, in his opinion, probably would have accepted \$750,000. The building's atypical, circular floorplate and the investors' desire to preserve the exterior, including three sets of two-story high stained-glass windows on the east, south and west elevations, pushed the conversion and financing costs to the point of requiring the investors to sell

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each unit for at least \$500,000, a price unsupportable in Hoboken's real-estate market at the time, according to Luizzi. The two investors therefore withdrew the idea.<sup>lx</sup>

The congregation continues to occupy the building. Several historic preservationists in Hoboken, believing that continued use of the building by the congregation that generally has maintained the building in a state of good repair with few alterations during the past 45 years, have discussed either among themselves or with the congregation's pastor ways of alleviating parking pressure and of obtaining funds for stabilizing and repairing the building.<sup>lxi</sup> Such efforts, if successful, will increase the likelihood of the First Baptist Church's significant architecture remaining a distinctive part of Hoboken's history and dynamic streetscape.

<sup>i</sup> For descriptions of architectural styles, see Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 2000, (Queen Anne, pp. 262-287; Richardsonian Romanesque, pp. 300-307). See also John C. Poppeliers, S. Allen Chambers, Jr. and Nancy B. Schwartz, *What Style Is It?* 1983 (Queen Anne, pp. 57-9; Richardsonian Romanesque, pp. 62-5).

<sup>ii</sup> Undated newspaper article, probably from *The Jersey Journal*, giving capsule histories of Protestant churches in Hoboken. Intrinsic evidence within the article indicates that the summary

appeared in 1955, the year of the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Hoboken; see vertical file, "Religion," Hoboken Public Library.

<sup>iii</sup> *History of Hoboken*, Hoboken Board of Trade, 1907, pp. 49, 51 (a copy of which is part of the Hoboken Public Library's collection); also *A Century in the First Baptist Church*, p. 6.

<sup>iv</sup> *New York Real Estate Record & Builders' Guide*, April 5, 1890, p. 480.

<sup>v</sup> Deed from Hoboken Land & Improvement Company to The First Baptist Church at Hoboken, Hudson County Recorder of Deeds, May 2, 1890, Book 504, Pages 88-90. Although the parties to a real-estate transfer must cite in the deed a mutually agreeable consideration for the conveyance, they may agree, beyond the four corners of the document, upon greater or lesser consideration. Whether the two parties to this transaction paid \$5,575 or some other amount remains to be researched. The actual land-acquisition might be established by searching any existing financial records of the Hoboken Land & Improvement Company. When the company dissolved, "there was little attention paid to preservation" of the company's records, although Sam Williams, the librarian at Stevens Institute of Technology at the time, salvaged some records for the college's library and eventually gave some of them to the New Jersey Historical Society. Richard P. Widdicombe, Librarian, Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, N.J. (electronic-mail message, Jan. 11, 2004, commenting on disposition of records of Hoboken Land & Improvement Company).

<sup>vi</sup> Nancy Blostein, Assistant to the Director, American Baptist Historical Society, Rochester, N.Y. (electronic-mail message, April 30, 2004, summarizing results of her search through official church records for cost of building church at Ninth and Bloomfield Streets). The report of the quarterly business meeting held July 9, 1890, (for the quarter ended June 30, 1890) included a cash-flow statement of the building fund. Nancy Blostein's search of church records found no subsequent reports of the building fund. The July 9, 1890, report does not indicate whether land-acquisition costs were included in the \$9,211.87 disbursement item. From the fragmented evidence available, the most that one can say with assurance about the cost of the new building is that construction costs, and possibly land-acquisition costs, totaled at least \$9,211.87 (the June 30, 1890, disbursement amount), probably totaled \$18,646.37 (the total in the fund), and may have exceeded that amount. A trade publication announced two months before construction began that the building would cost \$25,000 (*New York Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, April 8, 1890).

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<sup>vii</sup> A scanned image of the centennial booklet, *A Century in the First Baptist Church*, consisting of 28 pages, is available at the Hoboken Historical Museum. The Hoboken Public Library and the Jersey City Free Public Library have photocopies of the scanned image.

<sup>viii</sup> The American Baptist Historical Society holds minutes from 1845 to 1959.

<sup>ix</sup> See *A Century in the First Baptist Church*, p. 8: (“Much credit for the erection of this new building belongs to the Rev. John Finch.”)<sup>ix</sup>

<sup>x</sup> Norman H. Maring, *Baptists in New Jersey: A Study in Transition*, 1964, p. 255 (a copy of which is part of the Jersey City Free Public Library).

<sup>xi</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>xii</sup> G.M. Hopkins Co. map, 1923 (Jersey City Free Public Library).

<sup>xiii</sup> Untitled article from vertical file, “Religion,” Hoboken Public Library (no publication name given, but typeface resembles that of *The Jersey Journal*; text of article indicates 1955 publication date).

<sup>xiv</sup> Sanborn map, 1891 (Jersey City Free Public Library).

<sup>xv</sup> No churches on Washington Street date from later than the mid 19th century; by contrast both Bloomfield Street and Hudson Street, the closest parallel streets to Washington Street on the west and east, respectively, contain numerous houses of worship constructed during the late 19th century.

<sup>xvi</sup> Frank L. Greenagel, *The New Jersey Churchscape: Encountering Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Churches*, 2001, pp. 100-1 (Jersey City Free Public Library).

<sup>xvii</sup> In 1911, The First Baptist Church offered its 170 communicant members the following Sunday services: 10 a.m. men’s meeting, 11 a.m. worship, 2:30 p.m. Women’s Organized Bible Class, 6:45 p.m. Christian Endeavor, and, on the first Sunday of the month, Lord’s Supper at 11:45 a.m. See The Robert L. Stevens Fund for Municipal Research in Hoboken, *A Directory of Public Officials, Educational, Civil and Charitable Organizations, Churches and Religious Congregations of the City of Hoboken*, 1911, p. 33 (a copy of which is part of the Hoboken Public Library’s collection).

<sup>xviii</sup> Luizzi (recalling his membership in a Boy Scout troop that used the basement of the First Baptist Church).

<sup>xix</sup> *A Century in the First Baptist Church*, p. 9.

<sup>xx</sup> Undated flier from vertical file, “Religion,” Hoboken Public Library. Hoboken, along with Union City, West New York and North Bergen, was one of the Hudson County strongholds of an organization called The Friends of New Germany. The organization, whose membership has been estimated at a maximum of 10,000, was established in by authorities in Nazi Germany in 1933 to unify German-Americans in opposing Jews and communists, who, it believed, controlled the United States. It operated in major U.S. cities housing large German populations, including Newark, until support from Berlin ceased at the end of 1935. In Newark, the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League played the primary role in organizing the efforts of other groups, including religious groups, in counteracting the Friends of the New Germany and its sympathizers. See Warren Grover, *Nazis in Newark*, 2003, pp. 72, 90.

<sup>xxi</sup> *New York Real Estate Record & Builders’ Guide*, April 5, 1890, p. 480.

<sup>xxii</sup> *Ibid.*

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<sup>xxiii</sup> Paul Lippman, *Hoboken -- The Mile Square City: A Historic Walking Tour*, 1994 (brochure published by Hoboken Historical Museum).

<sup>xxiv</sup> *New York Real Estate Record & Builders' Guide*, April 16, 1892.

<sup>xxv</sup> Robert C. Brelle, *General & Historical Map of the City of Hoboken, N.J.*, 1906.

<sup>xxvi</sup> *New York Real Estate Record & Builders' Guide*, April 16, 1892, p. 605.

<sup>xxvii</sup> *New York Real Estate Record & Builders' Guide*, Aug. 20, 1892, p. 241.

<sup>xxviii</sup> Frank L. Greenagel, *The New Jersey Churchscape: Photographic Inventory*, <http://www.njchurchscape.com/Andover-Pres.html> (viewed Dec. 4, 2005).

<sup>xxix</sup> *New York Real Estate Record & Builders' Guide*, Aug. 27, 1892, p. 268.

<sup>xxx</sup> *New York Real Estate Record & Builders' Guide*, September 9, 1893, p. 269.

<sup>xxxi</sup> *New York Real Estate Record & Builders' Guide*, April 23, 1892, p. 646.

<sup>xxxii</sup> *New York Real Estate Record & Builders' Guide*, July 15, 1893, p. 71.

<sup>xxxiii</sup> *New York Real Estate Record & Builders' Guide*, April 9, 1890, p. 480.

<sup>xxxiv</sup> *New York Real Estate Record & Builders' Guide*, May 17, 1890, p. 738.

<sup>xxxv</sup> *New York Real Estate Record & Builders' Guide*, April 16, 1892, p. 605.

<sup>xxxvi</sup> New York City Department of City Planning, *No. 7 Subway Extension-Hudson Yards Rezoning and Development Program -- Environmental Impact Statement*, Chapter 9 ("Architectural Historic Resources"), Item #66, <http://www.nyc.gov> (viewed April 9, 2005).

<sup>xxxvii</sup> *New York Real Estate Record & Builders' Guide*, May 7, 1892, p. 724.

<sup>xxxviii</sup> Cornelius Burnham Harvey, editor, *Genealogical History of Hudson and Bergen Counties, New Jersey*, 1900, pp. 136-7; Robert Feldra, *History of Hudson County: Genealogies of Prominent Families*, 1917, pp. 52-3. Other secondary sources, such as the Hoboken Historical Museum's 1994 and 2004 historical walking-tour maps, attribute the design of the Columbia Club to Henry Hobson Richardson, who died in 1886 (several years before the Columbia Club was organized) or to Richardson's firm, the 1900 and 1917 genealogies are more credible sources.

<sup>xxxix</sup> *Ibid.*. See also: obituaries of Robert C. Dixon Jr. (deceased Dec. 12, 1933) in Dec. 23, 1933, issues of three newspapers, the *New York American*, *New York Herald-Tribune*, and *New York Times* in clipping file in New York Public Library's Humanities and Social Sciences Library, 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, Wallach Art & Architecture Room. See also: Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*, 1970, p. 176 (stating Dec. 12, 1933, as date of Dixon's death and describing Dixon as having maintained private practice in Weehawken after leaving firm of French, Dixon & Waldron). See also: *First Annual Report of the New Jersey State Board of Architects*, 1903, pp. 30, 40 (Robert C. Dixon Jr. listed at Highwood Terrace, Weehawken; Arthur DeSaldern listed at 39 Cortlandt St., New York, NY; and, Charles A. French listed at 406 West 42nd St.,

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First Baptist Church  
Hudson Co., NJ

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New York, N.Y.). See also: *List of Architects [by New Jersey State Board of Architects]*, 1916, p. 14 (listing Robert C. Dixon Jr. at 148 Park Ave., Weehawken, N.J.).

<sup>xi</sup> It also is possible that Dixon designed the two-story, Queen Anne home with a prominent turret capped with a conical roof that still stands at 11 Bellevue St. in Weehawken. An obituary cited in Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*, 1970, p. 176, gives 11 "Bellevue" Street as Dixon's last home address.

<sup>xli</sup> Lipman.

<sup>xlii</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>xliii</sup> Patricia Florio, *National Register of Historic Places Inventory -- Nomination Form*, "Hoboken Firehouses and Firemen's Monument, 1983.

<sup>xliv</sup> George Long Moller, *The Hoboken of Yesterday*, Vol. II, 1966, pp. 20-1 (Hoboken Public Library).

<sup>xlv</sup> "Survey Shows Changes Made in 50 Years," *Jersey Observer Golden Jubilee Edition*, 1942, p. B10 (undated article summarizing educational changes in Hoboken from 1892-1942 (vertical file, Hoboken Public Library).

<sup>xlvi</sup> Nancy Blostein, Assistant to the Director, American Baptist Historical Society, Rochester, N.Y. (electronic-mail message, March 4, 2004, summarizing minutes of trustees of congregation 1887-1891, which contain no mention of any architect or contractor but says that building committee consisted of the Rev. John Finch, James Benson, A.B. Cruden, H.A. Bonyne and John A. Brown.) *Goposil's Jersey City, Hoboken Union Hill, West Hoboken & Weehawken Director for the Year ending April 30, 1891* (Hoboken Public Library) lists Henry A. Bonyne as a carpenter in Hoboken and Brown as working in "stone" at 13th and Willow Streets. Church minutes list the board of trustees as consisting of G.D. Finley, A.B. Cruden, James Benson, James Bates, Albert Stein, Andrew B. Van Woert, and James Miller. *Goposil's* directory lists Bates as an usher, Stein as an importer and Van Woert as a commercial merchant. *Goposil's* contains no listing of a trade or profession for the others on the building committee or board of trustees.

<sup>xlvii</sup>

<sup>xlviii</sup> City directories list Thomas S. Field as a builder (directory of 1858-9), mason (1869), builder (1879), bricklayer (1888-9), and clerk (1890-1). See *Directory of Hoboken City for 1858-9: General Directory* and, for all other years, *Goposil's Jersey City and Hoboken Directory* (Hoboken Public Library).

<sup>xlix</sup> *A Century in the First Baptist Church*, p. 9.

<sup>l</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 9.

<sup>li</sup> *A Century in the First Baptist Church*, p. 10.

<sup>lii</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 11.

<sup>liii</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 12.

<sup>liv</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 7.

<sup>lv</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 11.

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<sup>lvi</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>lvii</sup> See pre-1907 postcard, #2102 (personal collection of James English, Hoboken, N.J.); see also post-1907 postcard #HC. 6507 published by E. Brooks, Hoboken (personal collection of James English); see also post-1907 postcard of First Baptist Church (personal collection of Allen Kratz, Hoboken, N.J.).

<sup>lviii</sup> Deed from The Trustees of The First Baptist Church at Hoboken to New Jersey Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Hudson County Recorder of Deeds, July 13, 1959, Book 2796, Pages 452-5.

<sup>lix</sup> The Rev. Mario Thorp, Hoboken, N.J. (personal interview, May 5, 2004).

<sup>lx</sup> Leonard Luizzi, Hoboken, N.J. (personal interviews, Feb. 15, 2004, May 8 and 18, 2004).

<sup>lxi</sup> In their private capacities (not representing particular entities), Allen Kratz, named to the board of trustees of the New Jersey Historic Trust on June 24, 2004, Paul Somerville, a member of the Hoboken Historic Preservation Commission, and Elizabeth Mason, who is active in land-use and historic-preservation issues in Hoboken, have discussed ideas such as subsidizing parishioners' parking fees in a nearby parking deck or determining if the Stevens Institute of Technology could donate excess parking spaces on its nearby campus to the congregation during worship hours. On May 8, 2004, Allen Kratz briefed the congregation's pastor, the Rev. Mario Thorp, on the planning, stabilization and repair funds for which the congregation could apply from the New Jersey Historic Trust if the building were listed on the National Register.

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## Major Bibliographic References

\_\_\_\_\_, *Art Work of Jersey City*. Chicago: 1892.

Blostein, Nancy, assistant to the director, American Baptist Historical Society, Rochester, N.Y., electronic-mail messages, Feb. 13, March 4, April 30 and May 3, 2004 summarizing results of her search through church records, including minutes of meetings of Trustees, from 1845 though 1891.

Deed from Hoboken Land & Improvement Company to the First Baptist Church at Hoboken, Hudson County Recorder of Deeds, May 2, 1890, Box 504, Pages 88-90.

Deed from The Trustees of The First Baptist Church at Hoboken to New Jersey Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Hudson County Recorder of Deeds, July 13 1959, Box 2796, Pages 452-5.

*Directory of Hoboken City for 1858-9: General Directory*.

Doherty, Joan F., *Hudson County: The Left Bank*, 1985, p. 85.

*The Evening Journal*, Sept. 28, 1891, p. 3 (article about dedication of new building).

Feldre, Robert, ed., *History of Hudson County: Genealogies of Prominent Families*, 1917, pp. 52-3.

First Baptist Church of Hoboken, *A Century in the First Baptist Church of Hoboken, New Jersey*, December, 1945.

G. M. Hopkins Co. map, 1923.

*Goposil's Jersey City, Hoboken, Union Hill, West Hoboken & Weehawken Directory*, (various years: 1869, 1888-9, 1890-1).

Greenagel, Frank L., *The New Jersey Churchscape: Encountering Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Churches*, 2001, pp. 100-101.

Griffiths, Thomas S., *A History of Baptists in New Jersey*, 1904, p. 408.

Harvey, Cornelius Burnham, editor, *Genealogical History of Hudson and Bergen Counties, New Jersey*, 1900, pp. 136-7.

Hoboken Board of Trade, *History of Hoboken*, 1907, p. 49-51.

Hoboken Historical Museum, *Hoboken: The Mile Square City -- A Historic Walking Tour*, 1994.

*The Jersey Journal*, Dec. 9, 1940, p. 5 (article about 95-anniversary services); Nov. 9, 1945, p. 5 (article about 100th anniversary); 1955 (brief histories of 13 Protestant churches in Hoboken; article otherwise undated, unpaginated).

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Jiminez, Raymond, III, treasurer, Seventh-day Adventist Conference Association of New Jersey, personal interview, Trenton, N.J., March 31, 2004.

Luizzi, Leonard, Hoboken city historian and neighboring property owner, personal interviews, Hoboken, N.J., Feb. 15, 2004, May 8 and May 18, 2004.

Maring, Norman H., *Baptists in New Jersey: A Study in Transition*, 1964, p. 255.

Moller, George Long, *The Hoboken of Yesterday*, Volume II, 1966, pp. 20-21 (information about architect Charles Fall's work product, including buildings in Hoboken contemporaneous and similar in style to First Baptist Church).

National Register of Historic Places. Nomination forms for Hoboken Firehouses & Firemen's Monument, February, 1983. Copies at New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Trenton, NJ.

*New York Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, April 5, 1890, p. 480.

Postcards, showing buildings constructed in Hoboken in 1890s: Main Post Office, Hook and Ladder Company No. 2, Public School No. 6, Hoboken Land & Improvement Company headquarters, the Columbia Club

Sanborn Map Co. [Map] of *Hoboken, New Jersey*. New York: 1891.

Shaw, William H., *History of Essex and Hudson Counties, New Jersey*, Vol. II, 1884, p. 1226.

The Robert L. Stevens Fund for Municipal Research in Hoboken, *A Directory of Public Officials, Educational, Civic and Charitable Organizations, Church and Religious Congregations of the City of Hoboken*, 1911, p. 33.

"Survey Shows Changes Made in 50 Years," *Jersey Journal Golden Jubilee Edition*, 1942 (otherwise undated), p. B10 (shows photo of School No. 6, built in 1892 style reminiscent of First Baptist Church).

First Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Hudson County, New Jersey  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one acre

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 582014E 4511195N  
Zone Easting Northing  
2

3  
Zone Easting Northing  
4

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Allen W. Kratz  
organization Drew University Historic Preservation Program date February 2005  
street & number 1245 Bloomfield Street telephone 201-656-7051  
city or town Hoboken state NJ zip code 07030

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

##### Continuation Sheets

##### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

##### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property and of contemporary properties built in the same style.

##### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name New Jersey Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists (Elder LeRoy Finck, President)  
street & number 2160 Brunswick Avenue telephone 609-392-7131  
city or town Trenton state NJ zip code 08648

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First Baptist Church  
Hudson Co., NJ

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## Verbal Boundary Description

The property being nominated is coterminous with Block 208, Lot 1 in the City of Hoboken, Hudson County. The property is situated on the northeast corner of the intersection of Bloomfield Street and Ninth Street.

## Boundary Justification

The nominated property consists of the entirety of the property (structure and infill open areas extending to the public sidewalks and adjacent property lines) that the First Baptist Church of Hoboken owned and occupied during the period of significance (1890 to 1891).

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First Baptist Church  
Hudson Co., NJ

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

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Contextual Photograph No. 1:

View: First Baptist Church, primary elevation (Bloomfield Street) and secondary elevation (Ninth Street), Hoboken, New Jersey, looking northeast; c. 1907, postcard from collection of Allen Kratz

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First Baptist Church  
Hoboken, Hudson Co., NJ

Section number   9   Page   1  

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## Photographs of Subject Property

For all photographs No. 1 to No. 43:

Property Name                   First Baptist Church  
Property Location:           Ninth and Bloomfield Streets, Hoboken, Hudson  
                                  County, New Jersey  
Location of original negatives:   Allen Kratz  
  1245 Bloomfield Street  
  Hoboken, NJ 07030  
  
Photographer:                Allen Kratz  
Date:                         January 19, April 24 and May 8, 2004 (exterior)  
                                  January 19 and April 3, 2004 (interior)

### Exterior photographs

- Photograph No. 1:  
View: Primary elevation (Bloomfield Street), looking east
- Photograph No. 2:  
View: Primary elevation and roof, looking east (from roof of residence at 902 Bloomfield Street)
- Photograph No. 3:  
View: Rear elevation and roof looking west (from roof of apartment building at 910 Washington Street)
- Photograph No. 4:  
View: Primary elevation, office tower and portion of sanctuary wall, looking northeast
- Photograph No. 5:  
View: Primary elevation, west wall of sanctuary, looking east
- Photograph No. 6:  
View: Primary elevation, west wall of sanctuary, bell tower and ancillary tower-stair turret
- Photograph No. 7:  
View: Primary elevation, main entrance, looking east
- Photograph No. 8:  
View: Cornerstone at base of primary and secondary elevations of bell tower, looking northeast
- Photograph No. 9:  
View: Secondary elevation, bell tower and south wall of sanctuary, looking northwest
- Photograph No. 10:  
View: Secondary elevation, looking north
- Photograph No. 11:  
View: Secondary elevation, iron fence along Ninth Street sidewalk, looking north
- Photograph No. 12:  
View: Secondary elevation, south sanctuary wall, looking northwest
- Photograph No. 13:  
View: Secondary elevation, detail of buttress joining south wall of sanctuary, looking north

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First Baptist Church  
Hoboken, Hudson Co., NJ

Section number   9   Page   2  

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Photograph No. 14:

View: Secondary elevation, porch, looking north

Photograph No. 15:

View: Secondary elevation, porch and tower over stairway to ground level, looking north

Photograph No. 16:

View: Rear facade (parallel to Bloomfield Street), looking southwest

Photograph No. 17 of 43

View: Rear facade (parallel to Ninth Street), looking southwest

Photograph No. 18:

View: Primary elevation, detail of bell tower, looking east

### Interior photographs

Photograph No. 19:

View: ground-floor all-purpose room, looking north with windows to Bloomfield Street on left

Photograph No. 20:

View: ground-floor all-purpose room, looking south to Ninth Street entrance

Photograph No. 21:

View: stairway leading from all-purpose room up to vestibule between Porch and sanctuary

Photograph No. 22:

View: first-floor vestibule with doorway to Ninth Street porch to right

Photograph No. 23:

View: first-floor vestibule with doorway into rear of sanctuary

Photograph No. 24:

View: sanctuary from Ninth Street vestibule looking north

Photograph No. 25:

View: west wall of sanctuary from rear of sanctuary looking north

Photograph No. 26:

View: chancel from center rear of sanctuary looking north

Photograph No. 27:

View: sanctuary from chancel looking south

Photograph No. 28:

View: sanctuary ceiling (with former light vault) from west aisle looking east

Photograph No. 29:

View: west aisle of sanctuary from chancel looking south

Photograph No. 30:

View: east aisle of sanctuary from chancel looking south

Photograph No. 31:

View: window in west wall of sanctuary looking west

Photograph No. 32:

View: pews in sanctuary (detail) looking west

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Hoboken, Hudson Co., NJ

Section number   9   Page   3  

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Photograph No. 33:

View: narthex doorway to main entrance (Bloomfield Street) looking west

Photograph No. 34:

View: narthex doorway into sanctuary (left) and onto Ninth Street, looking east

Photograph No. 35:

View: Doorways from narthex to main entrance (left), bell tower (center) and sanctuary, looking north

Photograph No. 36:

View: Circular stairway up from narthex into bell tower looking west

Photograph No. 37:

View: Room above narthex and below top of bell tower looking west

Photograph No. 38:

View: Bottom of base of top level of bell tower looking east

Photograph No. 39:

View: Office (former vestibule) on first floor of office tower looking west

Photograph No. 40:

View: Office (former vestibule) on first floor of office tower with double door onto Bloomfield Street, looking south

Photograph No. 41:

View: Anteroom behind chancel on east side of property, looking west

Photograph No. 42:

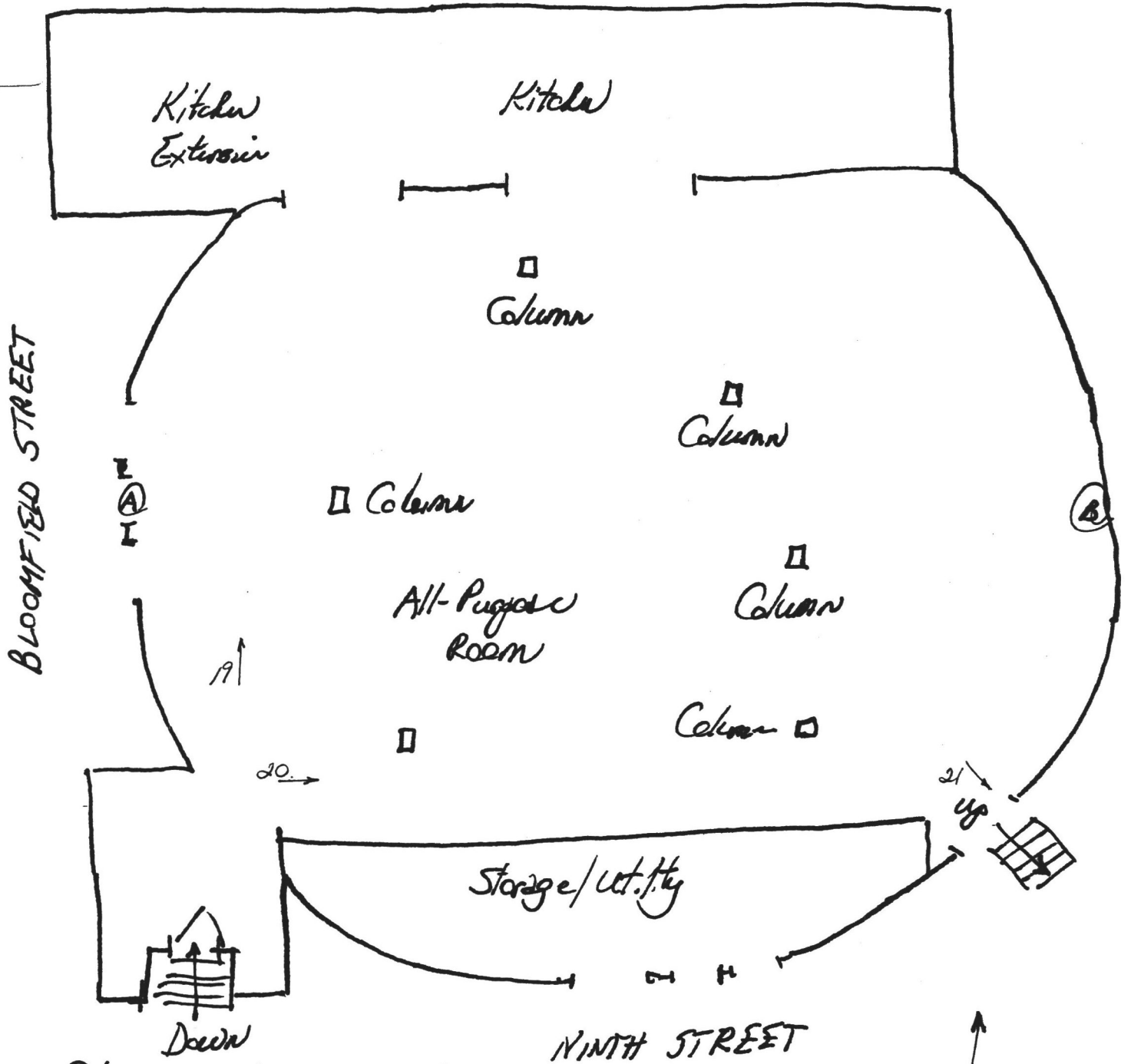
View: Anteroom behind chancel on east side of property, looking east

Photograph No. 43:

View: Corridor behind chancel leading to anteroom behind chancel, looking east

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
 Hoboken, Hudson County  
 New Jersey

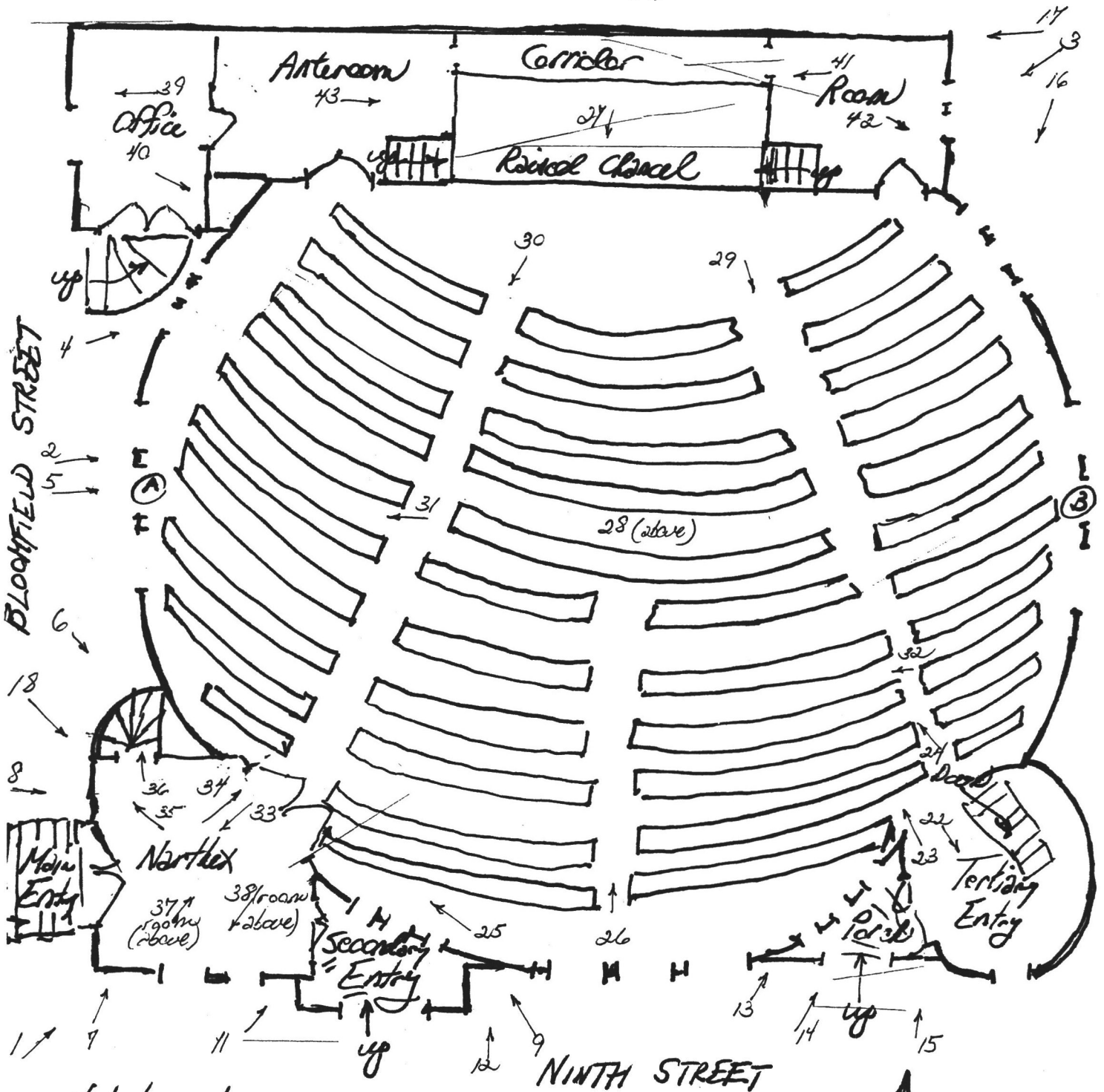
Ground Level



Column spacing approximate  
 Not to scale  
 Width of All-Purpose Room  $\approx 68'$

North  
 Allen Kratz 4/22/04

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
 Hoboken, Hudson County  
 New Jersey  
 Main Level



Not to scale  
 Width of Sanctuary  $\approx 68'$   
 (point A to point B)

Allen Karty  
 4/24/04

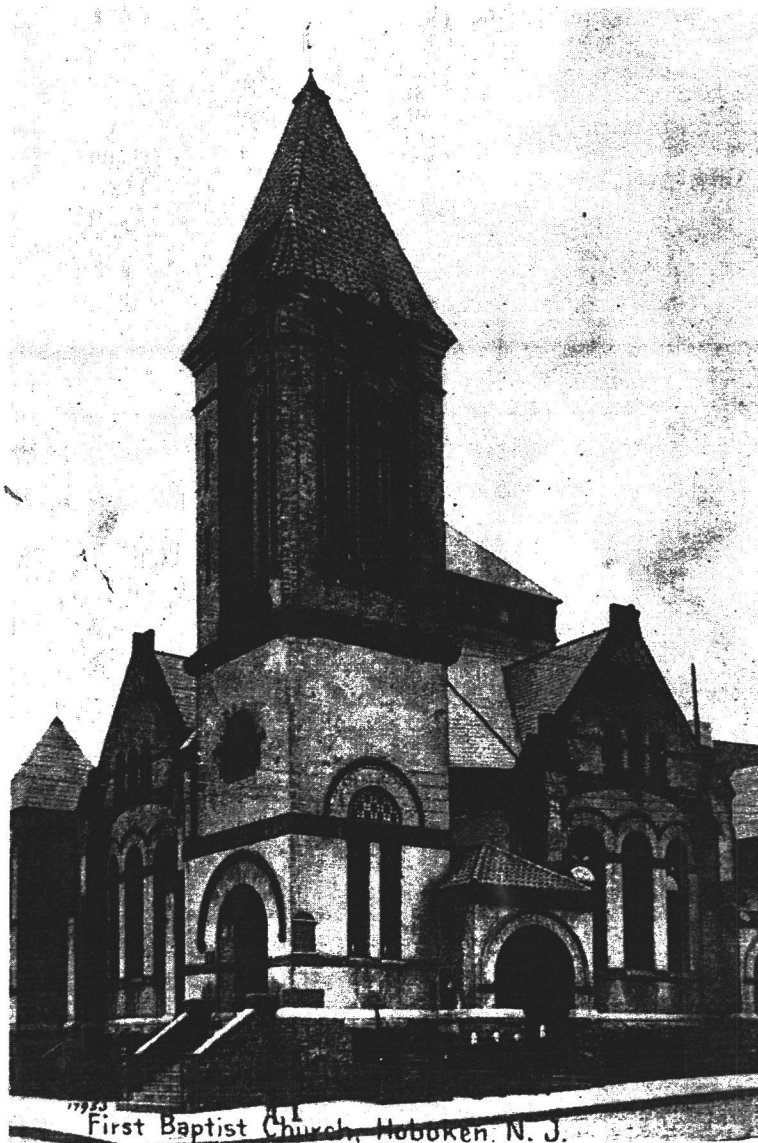
## National Register of Historic Places

First Baptist Church  
Hoboken City  
Hudson County, NJ

### Contextual Photographs

Contextual Photograph No. 1:

View: First Baptist Church, primary elevation (Bloomfield Street) and secondary elevation (Ninth Street), Hoboken, New Jersey, looking northeast; c. 1907, postcard from collection of Allen Kratz



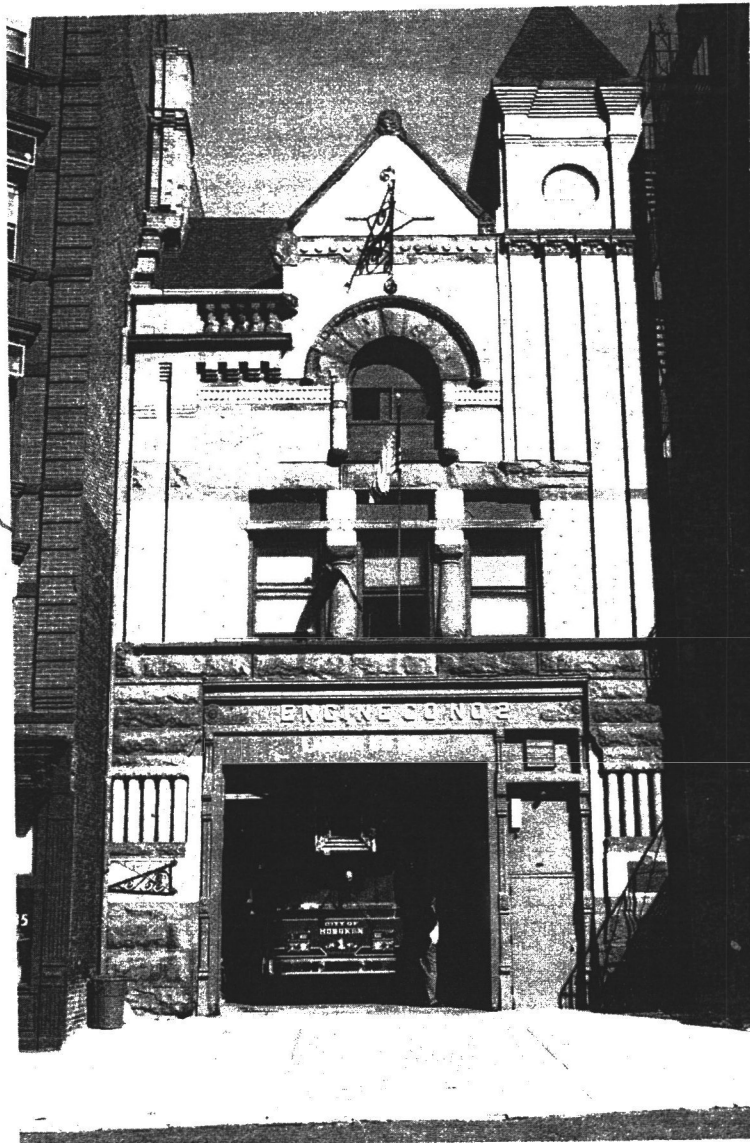
## National Register of Historic Places

First Baptist Church  
Hoboken City  
Hudson County, NJ

### Contextual Photographs

Contextual Photograph No. 2:

View: Engine Company No. 2 (firehouse), primary elevation (1313 Washington Street), Hoboken, New Jersey, looking east, 2004



## National Register of Historic Places

First Baptist Church  
Hoboken City  
Hudson County, NJ

### Contextual Photographs

Contextual Photograph No. 3:

View: Hook and Ladder Company No. 2 (firehouse), now Engine Company No. 1, primary elevation (Observer Highway between Jefferson Street and Madison Street) Hoboken, New Jersey, looking northwest, c. 1910, postcard from collection of Allen Kratz



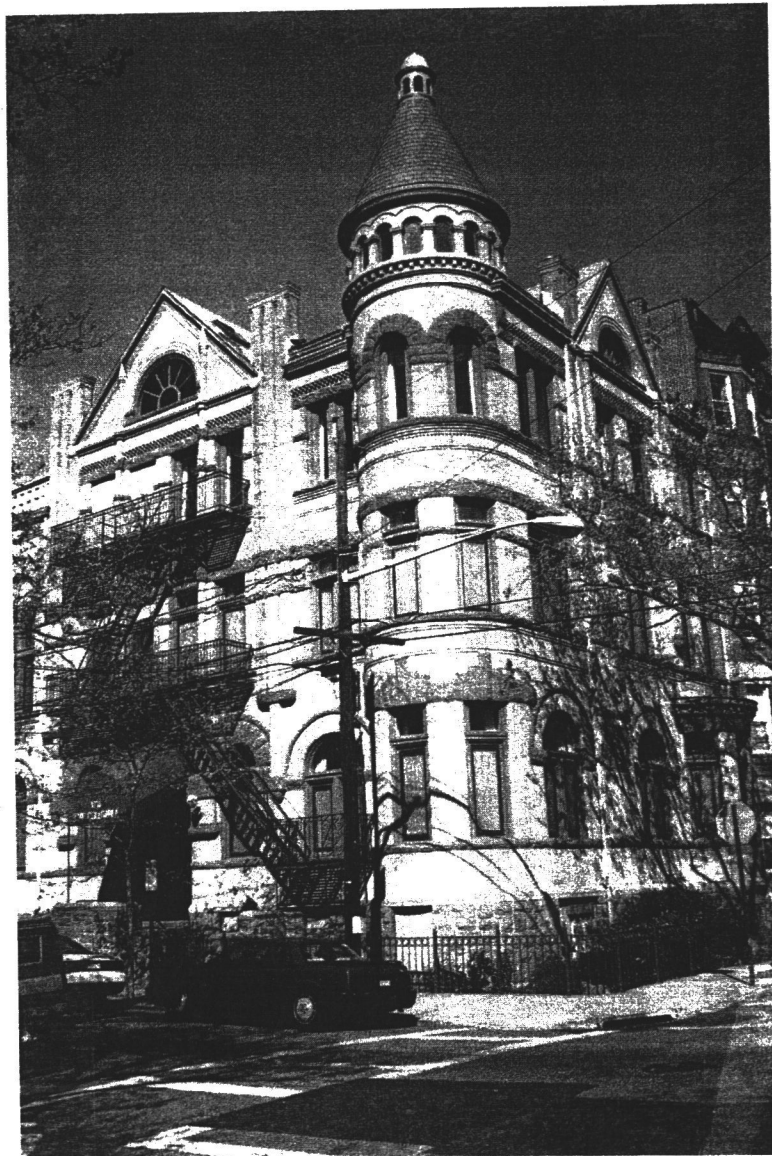
## National Register of Historic Places

First Baptist Church  
Hoboken City  
Hudson County, NJ

### Contextual Photographs

Contextual Photograph No. 4:

View: Columbia Club, primary elevation (Bloomfield Street) and secondary elevation (Eleventh Street), Hoboken, New Jersey, looking northeast, 2004



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY First Baptist Church  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW JERSEY, Hudson

DATE RECEIVED: 12/22/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/11/06  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/26/06 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/04/06  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05001570

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 2/1/06 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in the  
National Register**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

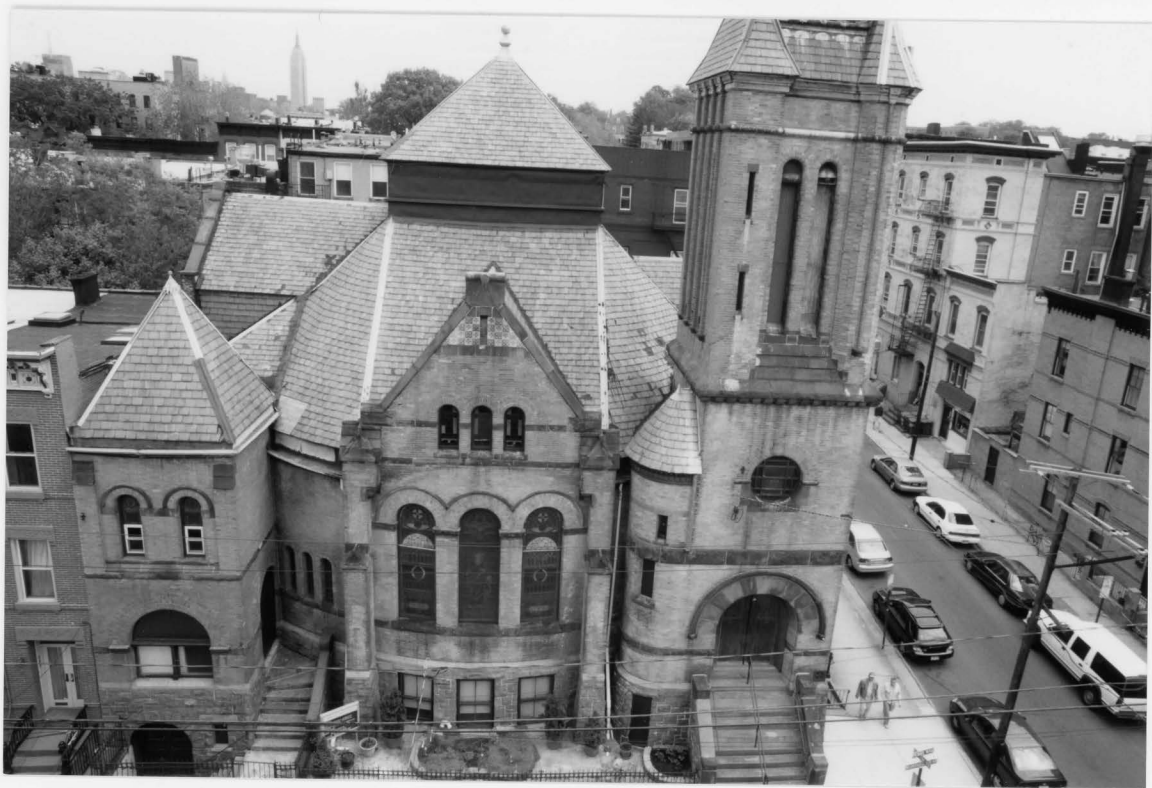
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



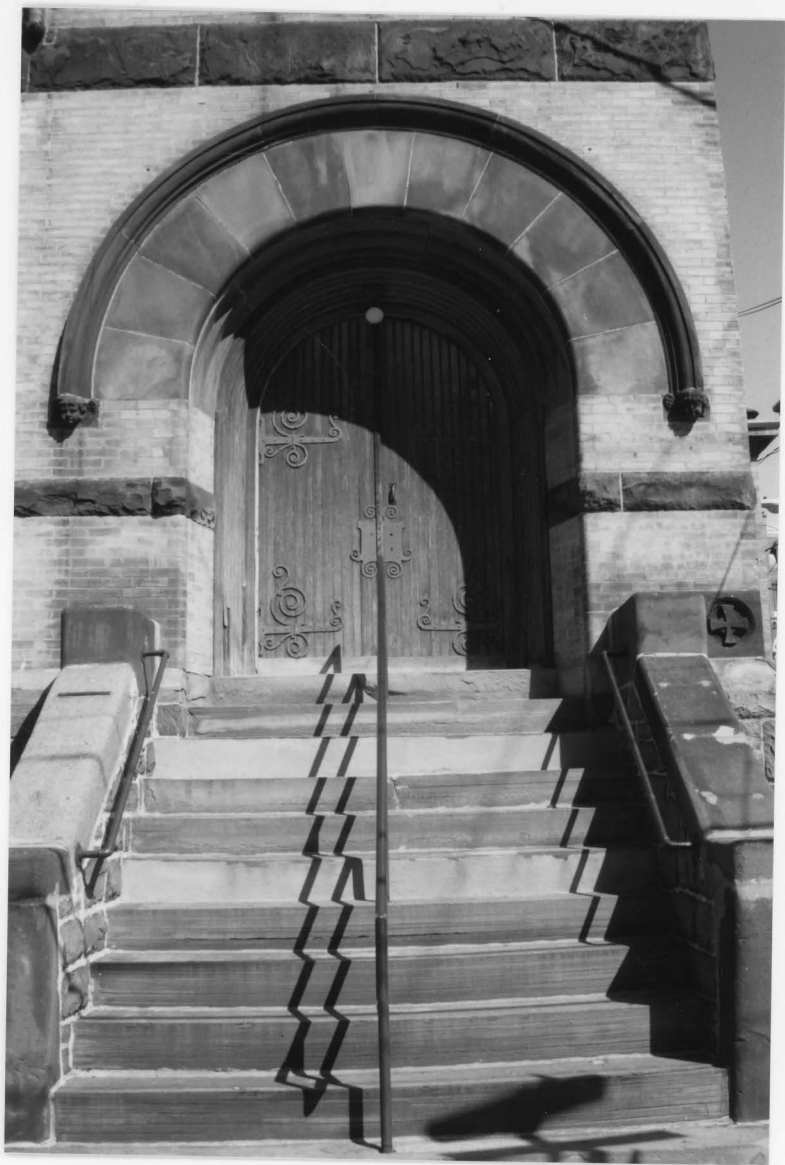












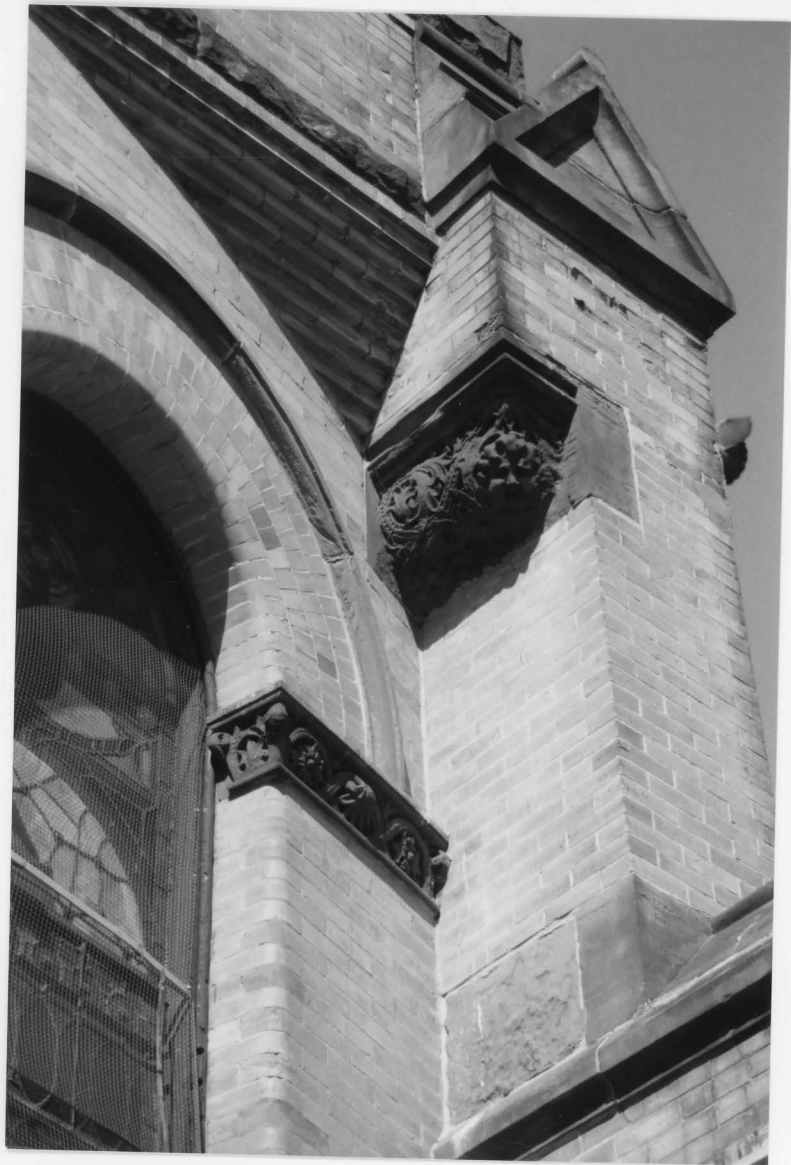
























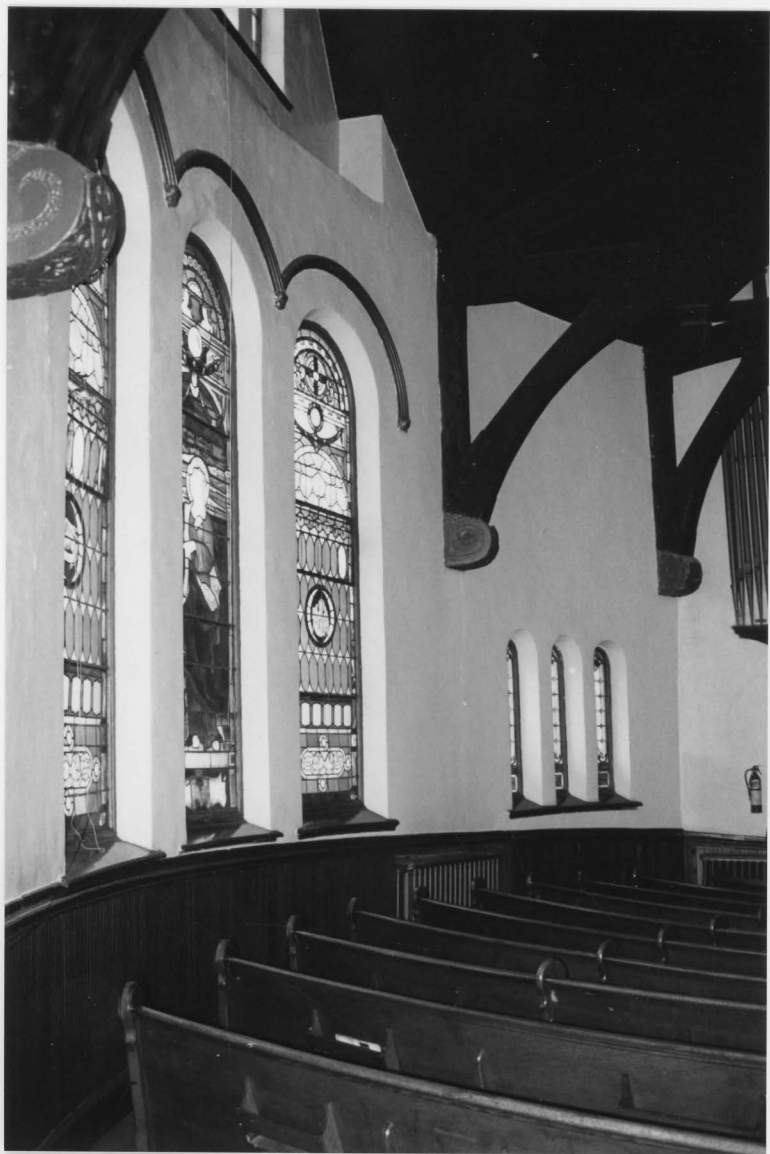




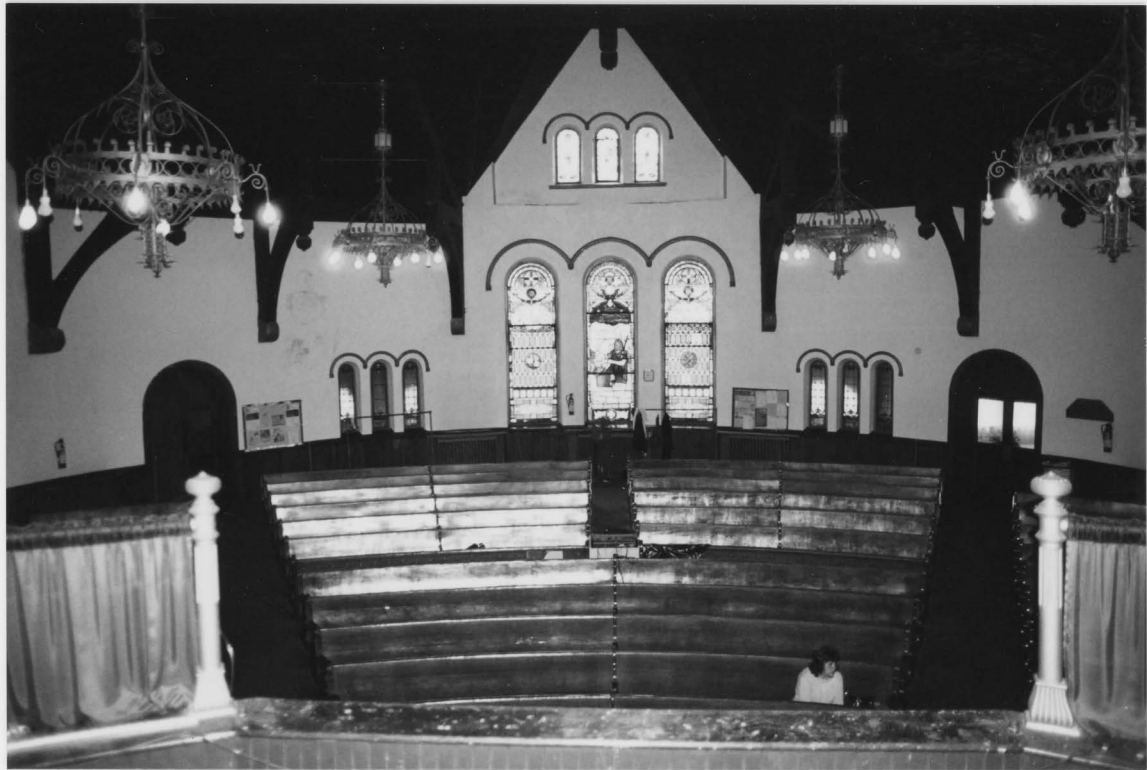












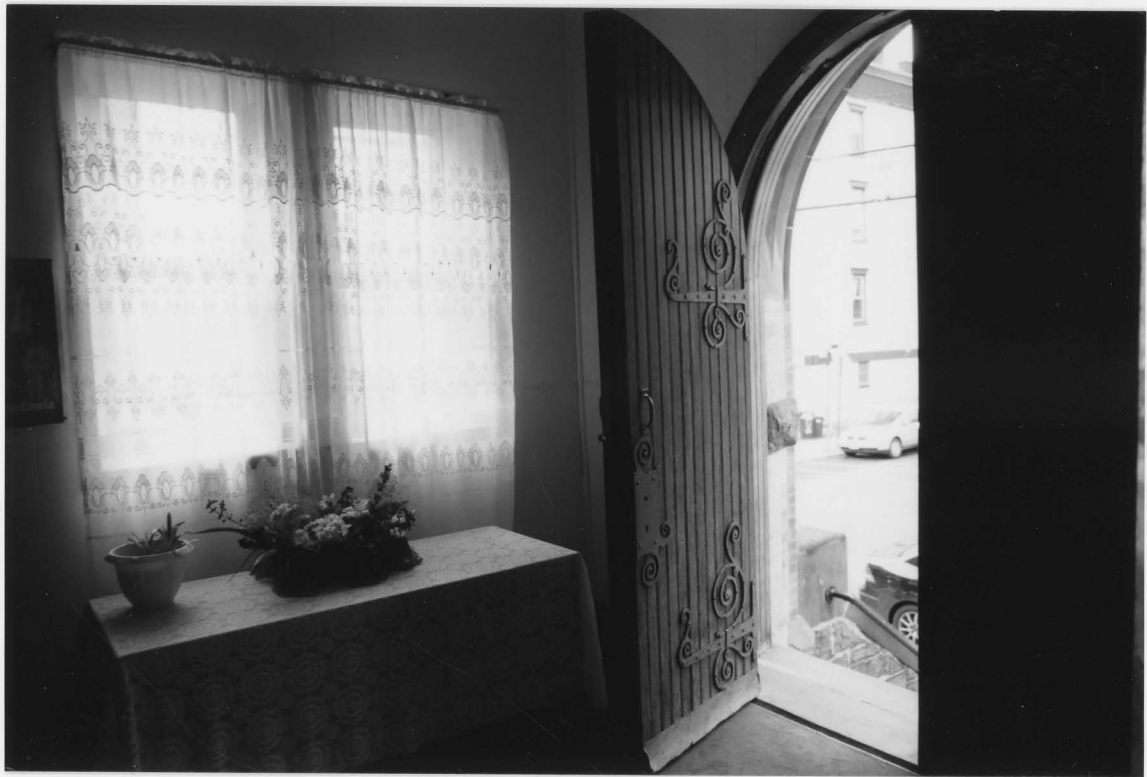








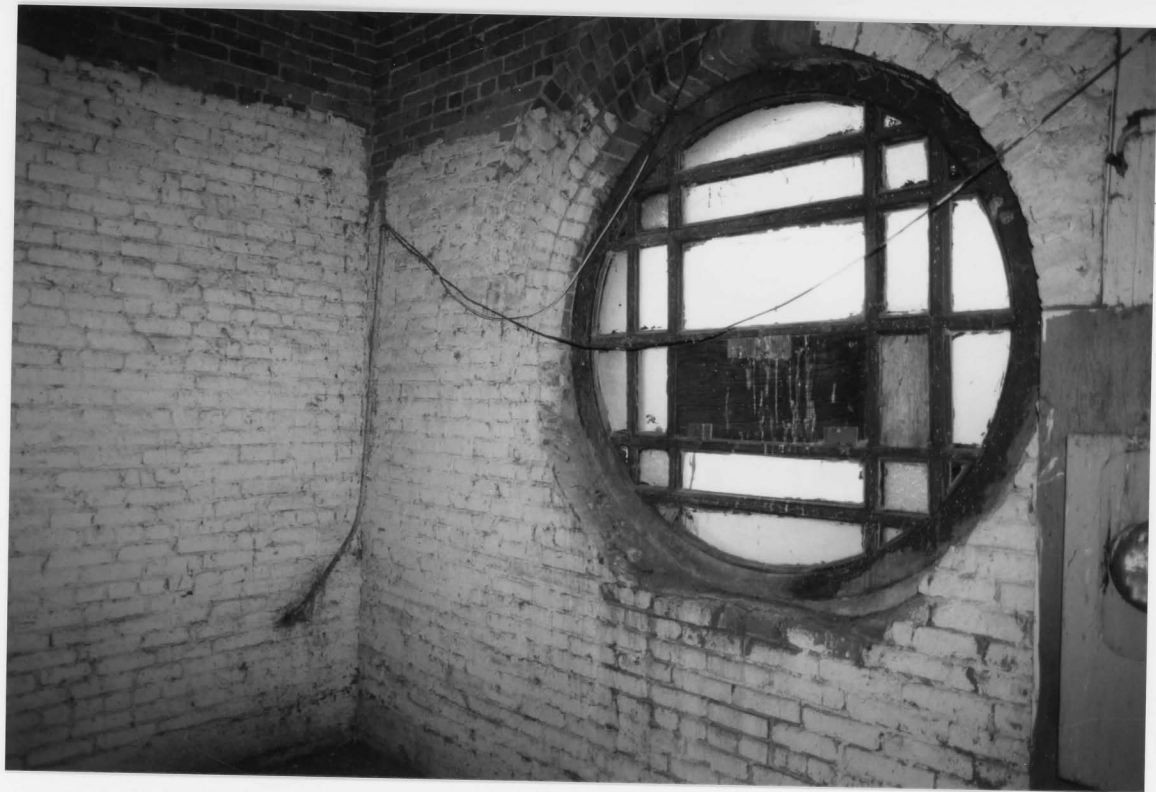










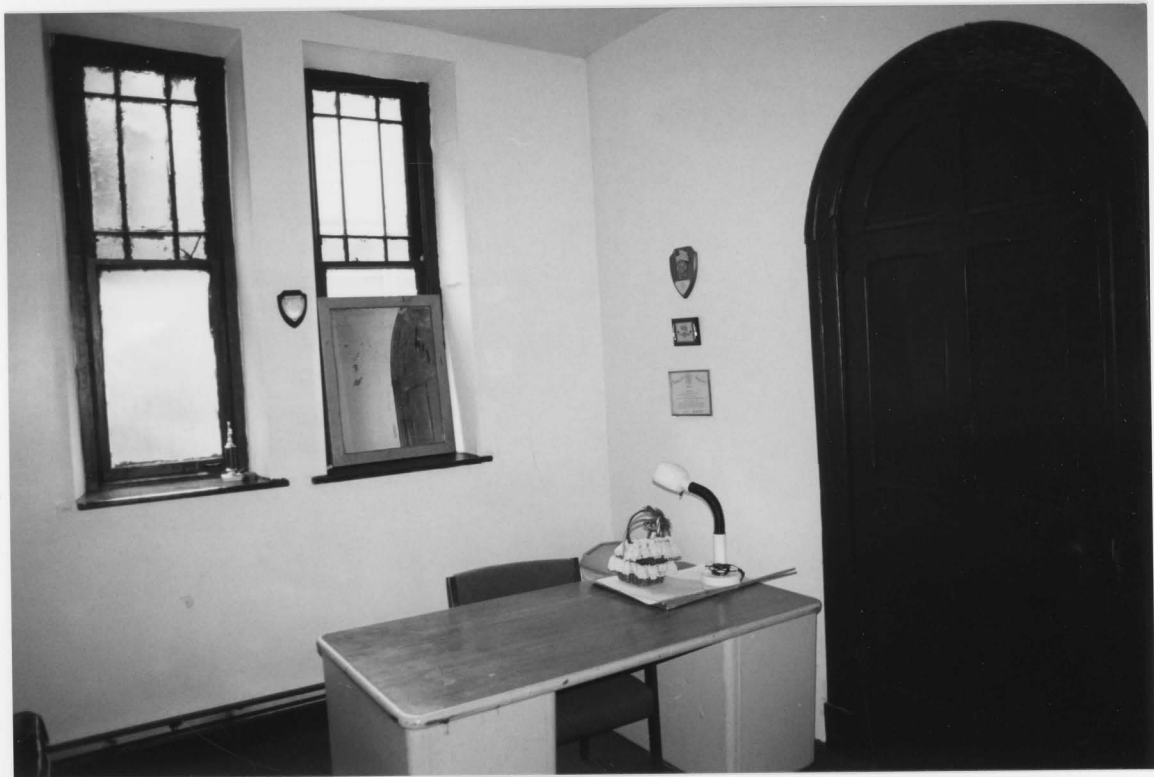








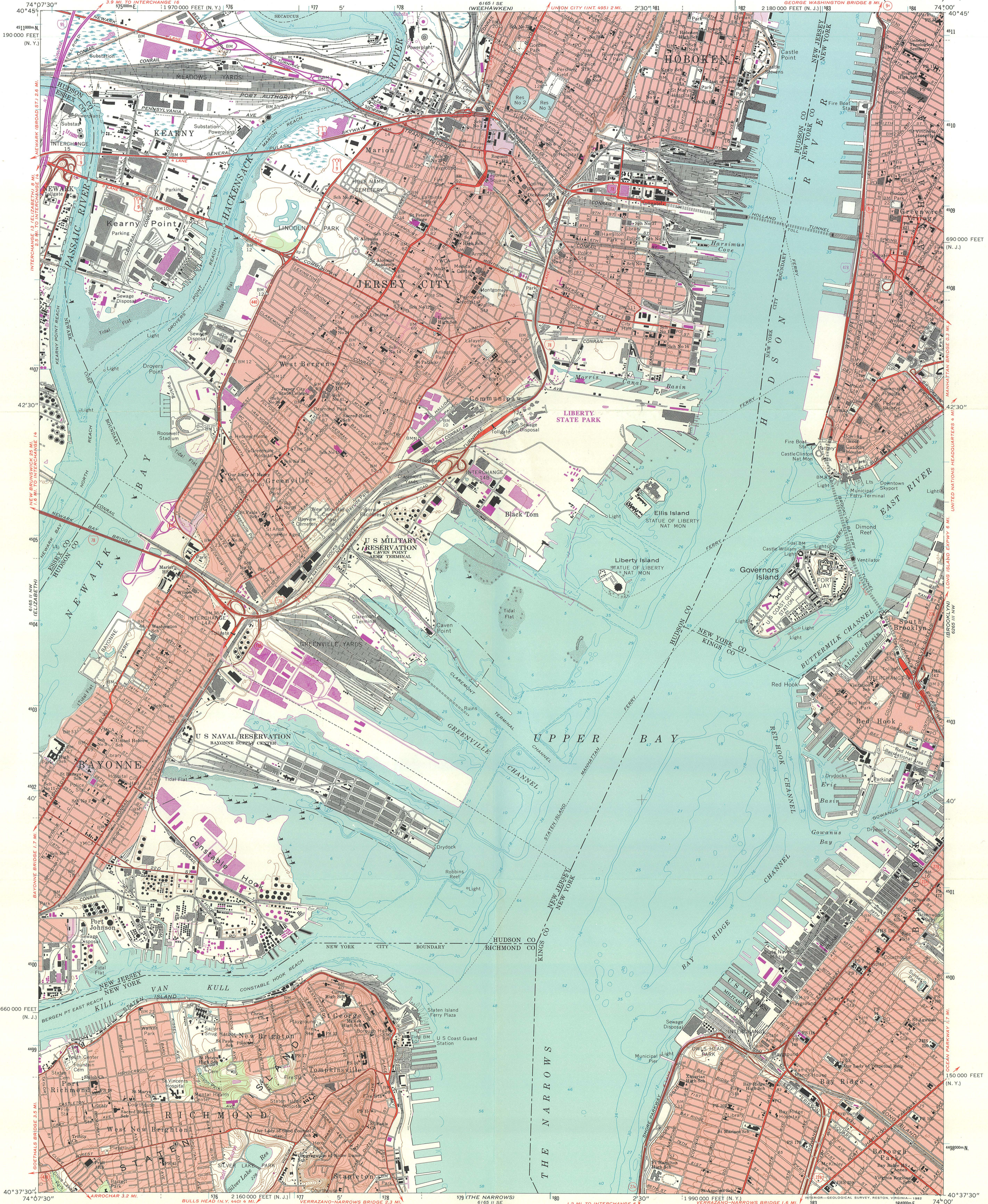






UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

JERSEY CITY QUADRANGLE  
NEW JERSEY-NEW YORK  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Zone 18  
E 46014  
N 451195

First Baptist Church  
Hudson County, NJ

685 FT SW  
CENTRAL PARK

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Revised in cooperation with New York Department of Transportation  
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, USCE, New Jersey Geodetic Survey,  
and City of New York Board of Estimate and Apportionment  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods and from NOS charts T-5111,  
T-5277, T-5332, T-5450, T-5453, T-5454, T-5460, T-5461, T-5466, T-5468,  
T-5469, and T-5470  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken  
1954 and planimetry surveys 1955. Revised from aerial photographs  
taken 1966. Field checked 1967  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 285, 287, 541,  
and 745 (1966). This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection, 10,000-foot grid ticks based on New Jersey coordinate  
system, and New York coordinate system, Long Island zone, 1000-meter  
Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue. 1927  
North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum  
1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south and 35 meters west as shown  
by dashed corner ticks  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map

SCALE 1:24,000  
1 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET  
1 5 10 15 20 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET-DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 4.4 FEET IN  
UPPER BAY AND 4.8 FEET IN NEWARK BAY

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface  
Secondary highway, all weather, improved road, fair or dry hard surface  
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface  
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION  
NEW JERSEY

JERSEY CITY, N. J. - N. Y.  
N4037.5-W7400/7.5  
1967  
PHOTOREVISED 1981  
DMA 6165 II NE-SERIES V822

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1976 and other sources. This information not  
field checked. Map edited 1981  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

ISBN 0-607-36774-1  
9 780607 367744



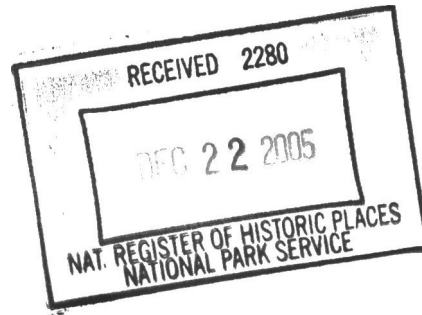
## State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection  
Natural and Historic Resources  
PO Box 404  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0404  
TEL: (609) 292-3541 FAX: (609) 984-0836

Richard J. Codey  
*Acting Governor*

Bradley M. Campbell  
Commissioner

John W. Roberts, Acting Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Mr. Roberts:

I am pleased to submit the First Baptist Church, Hudson County, New Jersey for National Register consideration.

This application has received majority approval from the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites. All procedures were followed in accordance with regulations published in the Federal Register.

Should you want any further information concerning this application, please feel free to contact Dorothy P. Guzzo, Administrator, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 404, Trenton, New Jersey 08625 or call her at (609) 984-0176.

Sincerely,

John S. Watson, Jr.  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer