

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

(Type all Entries-complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

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

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
At the foot of West Street on the Brandywine Park Drive
CITY OR TOWN:
Wilmington
STATE CODE: COUNTY: CODE:
Delaware 10 New Castle 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Considered	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress
PRESENT USE <i>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i>
			Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME:
The National Society of the Colonial Dames in America in the State of Delaware
STREET AND NUMBER:
c/o Mrs. Harry Trentman, President 1970-1971
726 Greenhill Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Wilmington Delaware 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEED, ETC.
Office of the Recorder of Deeds
STREET AND NUMBER:
New Castle County Court House, Rodney Square
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Wilmington Delaware 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Delaware Heritage Buildings and Areas
DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Greater Wilmington Development Council, Inc.
STREET AND NUMBER:
300 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1320
CITY OR TOWN STATE: CODE:
Wilmington Delaware 10

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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

The building is a simple rectangle 30 x 40 feet. The brick work on the N.W. or entrance front is laid in Flemish Pond with dark headers, the same bond is used for the S.W. wall which like the front has a door which once served the old burial ground. The S.E. wall is laid in English Bond with scattered dark headers. The same bond is used on the N.E. wall and on this wall are numerals about two feet in height, indicating the date 1740 laid into the wall with dark headers. The brick work in the entrance gable has an all-over pattern of zig-zag lines run vertically on dark headers. A single brick beveled water table occurs on all sides the tope of which is about six inches above the floor. Below the water table about one foot of stone foundation wall is exposed of rather carefully laid local granite. All the first floor windows and doors have raised haunches and key blocks formed in brick.

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

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

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATES (If Applicable and Known) 1777

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

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

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY
OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
39°	45'	2" N	75°	32"	51" W

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

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

State:	Code:	County:	Code:
State:	Code:	County:	Code:
State:	Code:	County:	Code:
State:	Code:	County:	Code:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title:

Mrs. Charles Lee Reese, Jr., Member of Board of Directors

Organization:

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

Date:

Street & Number:

c/o Mrs. Harry S. Trentman, President 19700-71

726 Greenhill Avenue

CITY/TOWN:

Wilmington

STATE:

Delaware 19805

CODE

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 665). I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ___ State ___ Local X

I hereby certify that this property is included in the 89-National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Name: _____

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Title: State Liaison Officer

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

Date: _____

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(Continuation Sheet)

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

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

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