

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 "x" 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 functions, 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 The Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery of Hopewell
other names/site number Old Baptist Meetinghouse, First Baptist Church of Hopewell, Old Brick, Hopewell Baptist

2. Location

street & number 46-48 West Broad Street not for publication
city or town Hopewell Borough vicinity
state New Jersey code NJ County Mercer zip code 08525

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 of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
Deputy SHPO, Assistant Commissioner for Community Investment & Economic Revitalization
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:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
1		sites
1		structures
3		objects
6		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

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ Religious Facility

FUNERARY/ Cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/ Meeting Hall

CULTURE/ Museum

FUNERARY/ Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/ Sandstone

walls BRICK

STONE/Sandstone

roof SLATE

other STONE/Sandstone, Granite

METAL/Iron, BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity. Use one or more continuation sheets.)

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.
[X] 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:

- [X] 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

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations. Follow with at least one paragraph for each area of significance. Use as many continuation sheets as needed.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
ART

Period of Significance

1749-1907

Significant Dates

1747 cemetery; 1822 current church built; 1852, 1873, and 1907 cemetery expansions; 1873 contributing fence erected; 1900-1901 mechanical room addition to church

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on 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
[X] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # NJ-199
orded by Historic American Engineering Record #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
[X] Other

Name of repository: Hopewell Museum

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 4.24 acres

Latitude / Longitude Coordinates

(Note to Preparers: NJ HPO will complete this portion of the Registration Form for all Preparers, based on the coordinates derived from the Site Map or District Map that HPO produces.)

- 1. Lat 40.388706 Long -74.765709
2. Lat 40.389345 Long -74.764312
3. Lat 40.388424 Long -74.763559
4. Lat 40.387717 Long -74.764889
5. Lat 40.388113 Long -74.765698

Datum: NAD 1983 State Plane New Jersey

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet for Section 10.)

Boundary Justification Statement

(Explain, on the section sheet following the Verbal Boundary Description, how the chosen boundaries meet the requirements for boundary selection and are the most appropriate boundaries for the nominated property or district.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christie Alderman
organization Volunteer date 7/30/2023
street & number 2 Huntington Drive telephone 908-310-2974
city or town Annandale state NJ zip code 08801

Additional Documentation

(Submit the additional items with the completed form that are outlined in the "Standard Order of Presentation" that NJ HPO provides. Each page must contain the name of the nominated property or district, and the State and the county in which the property or district is located. Consult with NJ HPO if you have questions.)

Property Owner

(Either provide the name and address of the property owner here or provide the information separately to NJ HPO. Check with NJ HPO for other requirements. All owners' names and addresses must be provided, including public and non-profit owners, but their presence on the form, itself, is not required).

name Old School Baptist Church
street & number 46-48 West Broad Street telephone 908-996-3964
city or town Hopewell Borough state New Jersey zip code 08525

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. The proper completion of this form and the related requirements 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.

Direct questions regarding the proper completion of this form or questions about related matters to the Registration Section, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Mail code 501-04B, PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery of Hopewell is located at the center of Hopewell Borough in Mercer County, New Jersey. The historic district includes: a mid-sized (45' x 50') two-story, vernacular Federal style brick church (1 contributing building), built in 1822; the cemetery (1 contributing site) which contains at least 1,600 burials, 1,097 of which date from 1747 to the early 20th century and 3 of which are marked by gravestones of high artistic value (3 contributing objects); and a wrought iron fence (1 contributing structure). Overall, the district is in great condition and has a high level of integrity.

LOCATION AND SETTING

The Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery of Hopewell is in the center of the small town of Hopewell Borough, Mercer County, New Jersey. The area surrounding the borough is relatively flat with many agricultural fields. Directly south, across West Broad Street (also known as County Road 518), are several historic residences that have been modified into shops, including an antique shop, a bookstore, and an art gallery. Resources facing West Broad Street, including the church and cemetery, are uniformly set back from the road by thin strips of grass and brick sidewalks. The surrounding land is relatively flat; from West Broad Street, the land slopes up from the curb and then is level throughout the district.

The neighboring building to the southwest is currently a wine and liquor store (formerly a hotel dating back to at least 1849¹), which is accessible from both Mercer Street and West Broad Street. To the west of the district, which is also accessible on Mercer Street, is a convenience store, barber shop, and a parking lot. Buildings along this street have a less uniform setback from the road and, through the commercial section, Mercer Street is lined with brick sidewalks on both sides. All other sides of the district are surrounded by private homes, which have matured oak and maple trees, uniform setbacks from the street, and cement sidewalks. An estimated 80% of the homes along the streets that surround the district (West Broad Street, Mercer Street, Model Avenue, Vorhees Avenue, Center Street, and North Greenwood Avenue) date back to the 1800s², with some buildings dating back to the 1700s (Figures 1, 3 and 10).

THE 1822 CHURCH - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

Church Exterior

The contributing building, the Old School Baptist Church, is a rectangular, two-story building, with gable ends facing southeast (front) and northwest (rear). The solid masonry construction is comprised of red brick laid in a common bond for all walls except the rear wall (Photo #0001), which is comprised of fieldstone. The building has a cut fieldstone foundation. There are no foundation plantings, however, tombstones abut the northern walls (Photo #0003). The gable roof is covered in rectangular dark grey slate shingles. There are box gutters and downspouts made of copper. The windows are all painted wood (white in color), with wood sills, and glass

¹ J. W. Otley and James Keily. Map of Mercer County, New Jersey. Camden, N.J.: L. van der Veer, 1849. Map. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2004629246/>.

²Hopewell Station, Hopewell Borough, NJ (Nation Register NRIS# 84002728) is located 0.2 miles from the district.

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panes, some of which show irregularities that suggest they are historic in nature. They are currently protected by aluminum and glass storm windows. The building is symmetrical in design.

The front (southeast) wall has two recessed-panel wood doors painted white, each flanked by simple wrought iron handrails flush against and mounted to the brick walls. Each entrance is reached by separate concrete steps. There are two arched wood windows that are 20-over-20 double hung with a 10-pane fan lights on the first story, two wood 12-over-8 double hung second story windows, and an ocular/circular wood window in the center of the gable. The following is centered on the front (southeast) elevation below the circular window in descending order: an inset sandstone plaque that reads, "Built 1747 Rebuilt 1822"; a simple, small wrought iron and glass light fixture; and an affixed painted wooden plaque on the first-story level that reads, "Hopewell Old School Baptist Meeting House, Organized 1715".

On the northeast elevation of the building, a marble tombstone for Reverend Isaac Eaton is affixed to the wall and housed in a white-painted wood and glass enclosure (Photo #0002). Per the tombstone's reference and the current owners' understanding, Eaton was buried inside the original 1747 church building and the headstone was relocated to its current location when the present church was built in 1822; it is presumed that his remains remain buried underneath the current church. The northeast elevation also has three 12-over-12 double hung wood first story window and three 12-over-8 double hung second-story windows. These windows have flat-arch brick lintels, and the walls feature a denticulated brick cornice with stepped bricks at each end.

The rear (northwest) wall is different from the other three exterior walls, in that it is a fieldstone wall, which has been parged with stucco, and accented with a combination of red brick quoins and red brick window headers. This elevation has one 12-over-8 double hung sash window on the first floor and two 12-over-8 double hung sash windows on the second floor, one on each side of a chimney. Off this rear elevation is the one-story attached mechanical room of solid red brick. The mechanical room has a simple painted wood paneled access door. The eastern corner has a non-decorative flood light affixed at the second-floor level. The exterior brick end chimney, which abuts the mechanical room, extends above the two-story roof.

The southwest elevation of the church has three 12-over-12 double hung wood first story window and three 12-over-8 double hung second-story windows. These windows also have flat-arch brick lintels; this wall also features a denticulated brick cornice with stepped bricks at each end.

History of Exterior Alterations Within of the Period of Significance

Minimal changes within the period of significance can be identified to the exterior of the building since its construction in 1822. An unknown number of windows were replaced in 1901³. The replacement windows are believed to be of like quality, style, and material, as they cannot be identified today. The one-story mechanical

³ "An Old Historic Church Remodeled." Hopewell Herald (Hopewell, NJ), February 13, 1901. Page 3. Last accessed July 31, 2023. <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-hopewell-herald/114861417/>.

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room addition off the rear (northwest) elevation of the church was added in 1900 or 1901 when a furnace was installed.⁴ Additionally, copper box gutters and downspouts were added around 1905.⁵

History of Exterior Alterations Outside of the Period of Significance

Outside of the period of significance, the only identifiable changes to the exterior of the building are: the addition of aluminum and glass storm windows that have been added to protect the historic windows; the addition of a wrought iron and glass light fixture on the southeast (entrance) wall that was likely added to the building between 1912 and 1927 when power was introduced⁶; and the addition of a non-decorative flood light on the rear wall of the building.

Exterior Current Condition

The exterior condition of the building is excellent, with only a few bricks near the north corner showing signs of spalling and the stucco parging on the rear elevation has thinned due to weathering. It partially reveals the red brick and fieldstone walls in all parged sections. There are a few patches of red paint on the lower portion of the front (southeast) elevation, which match the color of the red brick. It may have been applied to cover some graffiti. Otherwise, there are no signs of roof issues, no significant wall cracks or signs of joint repairs, and no significant degradation of materials. The building is extremely well maintained.

Church Interior

Inside of the Old School Baptist Church, there is a two-story room with simple cream-color painted wood wainscoting on both the first floor and balcony (Photo #0020). The paint colors still match a 1901 description, "The seats and other interior woodwork are painted an old ivory color, with (molding on the) back of seat a cherry (wood) color."⁷ A small second room, a mechanical room added in 1900 or 1901, currently houses the gas furnace which heats the building. There is no air conditioning. The floors of the building are wide wood planks that have been painted grey in color. The walls are covered in cream-colored plaster directly over the brick and sandstone masonry. Windows are covered in cream-color painted wood louvered shutters.⁸ The room features deep plaster moldings and a large plaster medallion in the center of the ceiling.

The first-floor features garnet-colored pile carpeting covering the aisles and pulpit platform. A carpeted raised wood pulpit platform with painted wood front paneling is located on the front (southeast) end, under which is

⁴ An illustration in *The Baptists and the American Revolution*, published in 1876 shows the northwest wall without the addition; "An Old Historic Church Remodeled."; Richard L. Porter. A Chronological History of the Hopewell Baptist Church and Its Original Property and A Chronological History of the Expansion of the Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery. The Hopewell Museum, 2023. Accessed July 31, 2023. <https://thehopewellmuseum.org/hopewellbaptistchurch>.

⁵ A postcard published in 1905 shows gutters and downspouts (Figure 7).

⁶ The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of 1912 notes "heat-furnace, lights- kerosene oil", while the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of 1927 notes "Heat Furnace Lights Electric".

⁷ "An Old Historic Church Remodeled."

⁸ It is possible that these interior louvered shutters are original to the building; they appear in photos as early as 1876 (Figure 5).

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believed to be the remains of Reverend Isaac Eaton. The platform can be accessed by five carpeted stairs from each side.

The first floor has three sections of seating separated by aisles: 12 rows of pews facing the pulpit in the center section; and 10 rows of pews facing the pulpit on each side of the center section. There are two addition shorter pews facing the center of the room on the northeast and southwest sides. The first-floor pews are open style wood with flat pew ends and topped with curved molding. The pews are cream in color while the pew ends and molding are painted in a cherrywood brown. The pews have cushions that are stuffed with straw and cotton and likely date to 1901.⁹ Within the center section of pews, graduated columns holding the balcony above are integrated into some of the pews.

Flanking the pulpit, a pair of vestibules enclose the first-floor section of matching staircases and the two, matching painted-wood paneled front doors. The two vestibules, added in 1901, have cream-colored painted double doors leading into the sanctuary with textured glass panels, which were described in contemporary accounts as "St. Louis glass panels."¹⁰ The two staircases that lead to the balcony, located along the east and south ends of the front wall, are simple painted wood steps with rubber slip-guards applied to each tread. The open-railings are dark-brown painted wood. A small storage closet is located under each staircase, each of which is enclosed with simple painted panel wood door.

All first-floor interior and exterior doors from the sanctuary have cream-color painted fluted molding with bullseye rosette upper corners. There are two ornate painted metal heating registers, located in the floor in both corners of the south wall, and a simple perforated metal panel covering the heating return located in the upper center of the northern wall. There are five simple, two-light brass sconces located on the interior side of the columns supporting the balcony, five simple, three light sconces mounted on the side and back walls between windows, and two simple, single light sconces mounted to the interior window trim of the two windows that flank the pulpit on the southeast wall. Additionally, there are several pieces of furniture that have remained in the building since it was first photographed in the early 1900s (Figure 9).

The first-floor mechanical room is rudimentary in finish, with courser unpainted stucco walls, unfinished pine wood flooring, and exposed pipes and furnace.

A second story balcony extends across all sides except the front. The balcony has cream-color solid-wood paneled railing and is supported by the columns below (Photo #0025). There are two simple one-light sconces on the rear wall, which match the first-floor sconces. There are pews on all sides of the balcony. They are identical in construction to the pews on the first floor, with each of the four rows of pews being slightly elevated above the row in front. There are forty individual pews in the balcony. The balcony pews on the east side of the building have several examples of graffiti carved into them, including names, initials, drawings, with some dates, some of which are dated as early as 1826 (Photos #0023 and #0024). The balcony is accessed by the matching staircases located on both the southeast and southwest sides of the building.

⁹ "An Old Historic Church Remodeled."

¹⁰ Ibid.

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History of Interior Alterations Within of the Period of Significance

Within the period of significance, some changes were made to the interior. The one-story mechanical room was added in 1900 or 1901.¹¹ Also taking place in 1901 was the addition of the vestibules; the removal of an older chandelier, which was replaced with oil lamp wall sconces (Figure 9); and changes to the pews. The center aisle was filled with continuous pews, and the previously square corners of the pews were replaced with curved ends with molding.¹²

History of Interior Alterations Outside of the Period of Significance

Outside of the period of significance, there are two known changes on the interior of the building. First, is the replacement of the furnace with a more modern furnace. Second, sometime between 1912 and 1927 electricity was brought into the building and the oil lamp wall sconces were replaced with the current electric sconces.¹³ Comparing today's church interior with a photograph taken prior to the installation of electricity (Figure 9) shows an unchanged interior, except for trading oil lamps for electrified brass sconces.¹⁴ Additionally, the exterior of the building remains identical to when the building was documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1935.¹⁵

Church Interior Current Condition

The interior is in excellent condition. The paint, which remains historically accurate, is in excellent condition. The plaster is in good condition with no visible signs of water intrusion, and only very minor signs of cracking. Woodwork and trim remain in excellent condition with high integrity. The church retains original 1900s pew cushions and furniture, which also are in good condition. The building is well maintained.

THE CEMETERY - CONTRIBUTING SITE

The cemetery originated in the southwest corner of the current lot (closest to the church) and expanded north and eastward during the period of significance. While there is no known copy of the original deed for the church

¹¹ "Late Local News" Hopewell Herald (Hopewell, NJ), January 2, 1901. Page 1. Last accessed July 31, 2023.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/65079115/?terms=%22old%20school%22%20%20&match=1>; Porter, "A Chronological History."

¹² "An Old Historic Church Remodeled."

¹³ The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of 1912 notes "heat-furnace, lights- kerosene oil", while the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of 1927 notes "Heat Furnace Lights Electric".

¹⁴ *Collection of Photos of the Old School Baptist Church*. Photographs. File: HwBoro. Hopewell Valley History Project. Accessed January 30, 2023. <https://image.hopewell-history.org/picture.php?/1017/search/3484>.

¹⁵ "Old School Baptist Church, Main Street, Hopewell, Mercer County, NJ" Survey (photographs, measured drawings, written historical and descriptive data), Historic American Building Survey, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1936. From Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress. HABS NJ-199. Accessed January 29, 2023. <https://www.loc.gov/item/nj0551/>.

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and cemetery first developed in 1747, church records indicate the parcel was $\frac{3}{4}$ an acre¹⁶ and the age and placement of memorials shows that the cemetery was originally located in the southern portion of the district (Figure 11). A small house that was located between the 1747 church and the neighboring present-day wine and liquor store building (see Section 7, page 1) was torn down in 1803¹⁷, creating room for a slightly bigger church, which was built in 1822, but the area where the house was located either remained largely unused for burial purposes or contain unmarked graves, as there are no tombstones in the area directly west of today's church. In 1852, Zephaniah Stout conveyed to the congregation a $\frac{1}{4}$ acre lot, previously owned by the Merrell family, which extended the property fifty-five feet westward along West Broad Street.¹⁸ (Figure 12) By 1873, Zephaniah Stout had purchased and conveyed to the congregation the remaining parcels of the former Merrell property, which extended further northwest along West Broad, as well as a parcel of land that extended along the back, or northeast by northwest, of the property.¹⁹ (Figure 13) By 1875, the Merrell House and a horse and carriage shed that fronted West Broad Street had been demolished and the cemetery expanded further east. New sheds had been constructed extending along the rear (northeast by northwest line) of the cemetery.²⁰ A firehouse, constructed some time before 1902, probably informally extended into the church property.²¹ In 1907, Mary Purrington, the widow of a former pastor, conveyed a tract of land to the congregation, expanding the northeast to northwest border of the property and extending the property lines to much the same proportions as seen today.²² (Figure 14)

Over time, the cemetery has grown to include over 1,600 graves²³. Of these, cemetery records show²⁴:

- At least 1,000 gravestones within the period of significance, 1749 to 1907:
 - 26 gravestones with death dates in the 1700s.
 - 910 gravestones with death dates in the 1800s.
 - 90 gravestones with death dates between 1900 to 1912.

¹⁶ Linda C. Gedney, Julie B. Gill, and The New Jersey Society of Colonial Dames. The Town Records of Hopewell, NJ/ Church Records of the Old School Baptist Church of New Jersey. New York: Little & Ives. 1931 (reprint of original manuscripts). Page 137. Accessed January 29, 2023. <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uva.x001174960>.

¹⁷ David Blackwell. "History of Hopewell Village." *Hopewell Valley Historic Society Newsletter* (Hopewell, New Jersey), Winter 2016, Vol. XXXIV, No. 3, Pages 797, 804-808. Accessed January 29, 2023. <https://www.hopewellvalleyhistory.org/uploads/1/2/5/5/125504560/hvhs-newsletter-archives-1975-2017.pdf>.

¹⁸ Mercer County, New Jersey, Deed Book X, Page 576, Zephaniah Stout to The Trustees of the First Baptist Church, April 27, 1852. New Jersey State Archives, Trenton, NJ; Porter, "A Chronological History."

¹⁹ Porter, "A Chronological History."

²⁰ Everts & Stewart, and Thomas Hunter. *Combination Atlas Map of Mercer County, New Jersey*. Philadelphia: Everts & Stewart, 1875. Map. Accessed January 30, 2023. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2010587333/>.

²¹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Hopewell, Mercer County, New Jersey. Sanborn Map Company. May 1902. Accessed January 29, 2023. https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3814hm.g3814hm_g055101902/?st=gallery.

²² Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Deed Book 241, Page 371, Mary Purrington to The Old School Baptist Church, 1907. Hunterdon County Archives, Flemington, NJ.

²³ Interred in the cemetery are numerous veterans. Cemetery records indicate there are 16 Revolutionary War veterans, 7 War of 1812 veterans, 16 Civil War veterans, 3 Spanish American War veterans, and at least 12 veterans of conflicts outside of the period of significance. Bronze Sons of the Revolution grave markers (rectangular in shape and featuring an image of a revolutionary soldier surrounded by heraldry and an eagle) are placed near memorials for Revolutionary War veterans.

²⁴ "Hopewell Baptist Meeting House Cemetery." Findagrave.com. Accessed January 30, 2023. <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/641079/hopewell-baptist-meeting-house-cemetery>; Mercer County Gravestone Inscriptions Hopewell Baptist Cemetery. New Jersey State Archives, Trenton, NJ.

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- At least 500 gravestones outside of the period of significance (with burials still permitted in the cemetery for people with strong affiliation with the congregation):
 - 324 gravestones outside of the period of significance, but historic (greater than 50 years old).
 - 310 gravestones that are not historic.

In all areas, the cemetery has an enclosed, grid layout (See district boundary and tax map). There are roughly forty rows of gravestones, with as many as fifty gravestones per row. The oldest gravestones closely surround the church and even abut the building. Approximately 95% of gravestones face to the southwest. Mid to late 1700s tombstones are found immediately to the east and north of the church. They stylistically reflect concepts that death was an opening into eternity, and to were intended serve as a reminder to the living of their mortality.²⁵ Some tombstones are simple, rough-cut brown sandstone or grey granite with the deceased's name and death-date roughly etched on them (Photo #0013), but more than half are lobe or trilobate shaped (reminiscent of a bed or doorway), sometimes with decoration in the tympanum, including at least one example of an angel carving.²⁶ Spacing and ground depressions in the colonial section of the cemetery suggest the possibility of unmarked graves, which could be attributable to an early colonial practice of using simple wood headboards, which would have rotted away over time. Unmarked graves could also be the burial sites of the Black and enslaved people who were congregants.

Early to mid-1800s tombstones are typically located further east from the colonial-period section (expanding into the area of land donated in 1852). Small obelisk and temple-like memorials also can be found in the cemetery from this time-period, in addition to simple stone markers. However, the lot donated in 1852 is mostly concentrated with late 1800s burials.²⁷ After the long stables or sheds that appear in 1887²⁸ and 1912²⁹ maps (Figures 3, 8, and 10) were reduced and then demolished, further cemetery development occurred north of the road that provides circulation within the cemetery. This allowed for the cemetery to expand to its current dimensions. Late 1800s and early 1900s tombstones (also within the land donated in 1873) are primarily made of granite and appear in the furthest east section of the cemetery. These tombstones often feature deeply stylized engraving and a wider variety of shapes enabled by the introduction in the 1850s of polishers and pneumatic hammers.³⁰

There are also family plots, which first started to appear in the cemetery in the 1880s. Those in this cemetery typically feature a large central memorial with the names of the family members engraved on it, surrounded by the buried family members. They are either surrounded by a granite and metal gate (metal portions may be missing, Photo #0016) marking off the family plot, or open ground surrounded by initialed footstones to mark

²⁵ Janice Kohl Sarapin. *Old Burial Ground of New Jersey: A Guide* (Rutgers University Press, 1994), Page

²⁶ The timing of the first tombstones used in the cemetery roughly aligns with the First Great Awakening when funeral iconography was shifting from images intended to remind viewers of mortality to a more positive focus on redemption and salvation.

²⁷ Gantz, "Hopewell's Past."

²⁸ Fowler, *Panoramic Birds-Eye View Map* (1887).

²⁹ Sanborn Map Company. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Hopewell, Mercer County, New Jersey. Map. 1912. Accessed January 29, 2023. https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3814hm.g3814hm_g055101912/?sp=2.

³⁰ Some tombstones from the early 1900s were likely created by a stonecutters Seville & Reid who were located at 39 Modal Street by 1901. William I. Reid later renamed the business the Hopewell Marble and Granite Works and expanded to 9 Mercer Street by 1912. Both locations are on the northwest corner of the same block as the Old School Baptist Church and advertised "monuments, headstones, and markers, etc."

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the exact burial place of the family member. This style of family plot can also be found in the northeastern corner of the cemetery (land donated to the congregation in 1907) in a contemporary manner as their use was continued through the late 1900s and early 2000s.

There is little hardscape or infrastructure within the cemetery. A historic access road³¹ transects the cemetery, with a 90 degree turn along the northeast side of the property, which can be accessed by West Broad Street. There is no lighting within the cemetery, no parking lot, and no paved paths beyond one sidewalk to the back entrance of the church. It also lacks any significant horticultural elements.

The cemetery is 80% enclosed with fencing. On the southwest side of the cemetery, running the full length of the property and parallel to the sidewalk on West Broad Street, is a historic wrought iron fence (described further in the Contributing Structures section). On the north end of the district there is an early 20th-century aluminum chain link fence that runs the length of the rear of the property. Along the northeast side of the district, there is a black aluminum panel fence. On the north end of the aluminum panel fence, exiting to Center Street, there is a matching double gate that features a weeping willow motif in aluminum that stylistically suggests it dates to the 1960s or 1970s. There is also a smaller matching aluminum gate on the east side of the district, which allows cars to exit on to West Broad Street.

History of Cemetery Alterations Outside of the Period of Significance

After the period of significance, known changes include the following: the demolition of three storage sheds at various times between 1912 and 1972; the addition of the storage shed (uncounted) in the 1990s; the addition of more contemporary fencing on the northwest and northeast sides; the pavement of the road that transects the cemetery (date unknown); and the district's continued use as a burial ground. In 1966, a small adjustment was made to southwest lot line to resolve the issue of a neighboring structure that was previously infringing in cemetery property.³² More contemporary burials (1907 to present day) are generally located northeast of the road, with areas north and northwest of the road, where sheds originally stood, largely devoid of tombstones (Photo #0008).

Cemetery Current Condition

The cemetery is in very good condition. As is typical for older cemeteries, there is some damage to memorials from lawn maintenance, with lacerations on many memorials within inches of the ground. An estimated twenty tombstones, particularly in the Colonial-era portion, have weathering to the point that they are illegible, and an estimated thirty tombstones have had more contemporary concrete bases added for stability. However, an estimated 98% of memorials are intact, the fencing is in excellent condition, and the grounds are well maintained. The maintenance level, contemporary burials, and presence of flowers and veteran flags, demonstrate that the cemetery is still a vital part of the Hopewell community.

³¹ Historic aerials views reveal that the road was present as early as 1931, but was likely extant earlier.

³² Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Deed Book 241, Page 371, The Trustees of the Old School Baptist Church in Hopewell to Helen Palaschak, 1966. Hunterdon County Archives, Flemington, NJ.

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CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE WITHIN THE CEMETERY

There is one contributing structure within the district: a fence. Surrounding the front (southeast) elevation of the cemetery is a cast and wrought iron fence, which is labeled “Joseph B. Yard Maker Trenton, NJ”³³ (Photo #0010) and the majority of which was erected in 1873.³⁴ The iron fence replaced a stone wall “laid in lime & sand and covered with boards”, which was installed around a smaller, older portion of the cemetery in 1852.³⁵ When erected in 1873, the iron fence extended in front of the church (Figure 2), but around 1897³⁶ was reconfigured to connect to the sides of the church, opening up the front of the church (Figure 6 and 7). The fence features cast triad spears capping each picket and ornate cast torch shapes capping each post. Cast portions were formed in halves and connected with pins and holes to interlock with each other. While the top rail of the fence is simple wrought iron, the bottom of each post branches into an ornate lattice and arch pattern.

There are six gates that are part of the iron fence structure. One adjacent to the east of the church building, is a pedestrian gate (about three feet wide), which is closed by a cannonball- style weighted iron gate closure with a wrought iron chain. It mirrors the style of the rest of the gate but has an arched top rail and simpler lattice bottom rail. The second gate is immediately west of the church is a matching pedestrian gate (without the cannonball closure). Further east of the building, there are two, double gates (about six feet wide), which also matches the style of the other fences (again, without a cannonball closure). Affixed to the wider gates are the iron labels naming the church and fence maker. Further east is another double gate, without the iron labels and a single gate matching the western pedestrian gate. At the eastern end of the property another double gate without iron labels leads to the side road connecting W Broad Street and the central access road in the cemetery.

The wrought iron fence was restored in 1984. The work was completed by Worthington Forge in Yardley, PA and included recasting or repairing twenty-five top tracts, sixty spears, and six bottom tracts. Outriggers were added to each post to increase stability.³⁷ Since then the fence has remained in great condition.

CONTRIBUTING OBJECTS WITHIN THE CEMETERY

Among the many gravestones in the cemetery, three are counted as contributing objects. These gravestones are counted as contributing objects because of they are highly artistic and professionally carved Colonial-era tombstones. They are:

³³ An iron railing manufacturer named Joseph B. Yard also installed fencing for the Sacred Heart Church in Trenton, NJ, a National Register listed property (#02000434), in 1889. Yard’s residence is referenced in National Register listing for Mill Hill District in Trenton (#77000880). Yard began iron railing manufacturing in 1850, had a manufacturing facility on Green Street in Trenton, which advertised as “particular attention given to enclosing cemetery lots” (*Business Directory and Gazetteer of Bucks County, Pennsylvania*, 1871).

³⁴ Porter, “A Chronological History.”

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ *Collection of Photos of the Old School Baptist Church*. Photographs. Photo: Broad West-046-1876-ph-Old School Baptist Meeting Church-HVHS Cal1987 11. <https://image.hopewell-history.org/picture.php?/3964/search/3484>; *Collection of Photos of the Old School Baptist Church*. Photo: Broad West-046-1897-ph-Old School Baptist Church-HHH 006. <https://image.hopewell-history.org/picture.php?/3614/search/3484>; Porter, “A Chronological History.”

³⁷ Pam Johnson. “Cemetery Fence Restored.” *Hopewell Valley News*, 1984, November 29. Article clipping. Hopewell Museum, Hopewell Borough, NJ.

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- Elizabeth Hobb's tombstone, signed by artist Jonathan Hand Osborn (Photo #0014)
- John Hobb's tombstones, signed by artist Jonathan Hand Osborn (Photo #0014)
- Catherine Stout's tombstone, attributed to carver Ebenezer Price (Photo #0015)

The Hobbs' tombstones are identical in design and each feature finely hand-carved fluting, trilobate fans, flowers, flourishes, and the artist's signature and location carved on the front of the memorial. Both are carved from sandstone and are lobe-shaped. The Stout tombstone, which is also carved from sandstone and lobe-shaped, has a finely carved tympanium decorated with a somber face, angel wings, and a hovering crown or tulip, which may represent the soul's triumph over death- a reoccurring theme in mid-1700s funerary art.³⁸

The condition of the objects is good. All three gravestones have some minor damage near the bases likely caused by lawn care. The Stout memorial has been remounted in a more contemporary footer to ensure its stability, while also obscuring the area where Ebenezer Price, the artist, typically signed his tombstones. However, the carving on all three tombstones remains clear. Each has a patena that contributes to their aesthetic.

UNCOUNTED RESOURCES WITHIN THE CEMETERY

One notable resource is a memorial to John Hart, who donated the land for the original church in 1747 and was a signer of the Declaration of Independence (Photo #0011). Hart may have originally been buried in the Hart family cemetery at the time of his death in 1779, but his remains were later relocated to the Old School Baptist cemetery in 1864.³⁹ This memorial, which is located a few hundred feet northeast of the church (Figure 3), is a granite draped obelisk with inscriptions on 4 sides.⁴⁰ The memorial was featured in numerous postcards (alone and in conjunction with the church) as a regional tourist destination throughout the early 1900's, primarily because of Hart's association with the Revolutionary War.

Another notable resource is an 1896 memorial to the Revolutionary War and Joab Houghton (Photo #0009), who gave a pro-independence speech at the close of church services on April 23, 1775, as the news of the Battle of Lexington reached Hopewell. The memorial is capped by the 8' x 4' sandstone block (a steppingstone for entering a carriage) from which Houghton gave the speech. The southeast (front) side of the memorial has a sandstone plaque that describes the speech and Houghton's accomplishments. Houghton's grave can be found separately in the cemetery.

³⁸ Richard F Veit. *New Jersey Cemeteries and Tombstones: History in the Landscape*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2008. Page 43.

³⁹ George Hale. *A History of the Old Presbyterian Congregation of "The People of Maidenhead and Hopewell."* Philadelphia, PA: Henry B. Ashmead, 1876. Accessed January 29, 2023.

https://www.google.com/books/edition/A_History_of_the_Old_Presbyterian_Congre/xOoj6ZuMr0cC?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover.

⁴⁰ The memorial reads, "JOHN HART, A SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FROM NEW JERSEY, JULY 4, 1776, DIED IN 1780" (incorrectly representing Hart's death date), "ERECTED BY THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY ACT APP'ED APRIL 6TH 1865, JOEL PARKER GOV., EDWARD W. SCUDDER, PRES. SENATE, JOS. T. CROWELL, SPEAK. HOUSE, JACOB WEART, CHAS. A. SKILLMAN, ZEPHANIAH STOUT, COMM'RS.", "FIRST SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, AUG. 27TH, 1776, MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFTEY 1775-1776", and "HONOR THE PATRIOT'S GRAVE".

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Also notable, is a plaque memorializing Friday Truehart (Photo #0012), which was organized as part of the Witness Stones project, whose mission is to “restore the history and honor the humanity of the enslaved individuals who helped build our communities.” Truehart, a member of the congregation, was enslaved at the age of thirteen and owned by Rev. Oliver Hart, a minister of the church.⁴¹ The plaque was placed in the sidewalk at the entrance to the church building April 28, 2022.

There is an uncounted storage shed located in the north end of the district, which is not counted as a resource in this nomination because it is not “substantial in size and scale.” Current trustees of the property believe that it was added to the property in the 1990s. The shed measures 8 feet by 13 feet and 1 inch. It has particle wood siding that simulates board and batten siding and architectural shingle roof cover, which is in poor condition (Photo #0006).

NON-EXTANT RESOURCES DEMOLISHED OVER TIME

Original Church Demolished Within Period of Significance

The original church existed between 1747 and 1822; it was located in the southeastern portion of the property, in the same location as the extant church. It was described as:

“(T)he original church building, erected in 1747, was thirty feet wide and forty feet long. It had much the same appearance as the red-brick church located on the same parcel or ground today, although the present structure, erected in 1822, is somewhat larger than its predecessor. The first church, two stories in height, was built on a stone foundation. The interior walls were said to have been whitewashed. The windows were trimmed in white and boasted several small panes of glass.”

The earlier church building was demolished to enable the building the current larger church.⁴²

Schoolhouse Demolished Within Period of Significance

A small stone and brick schoolhouse was located in the district between 1795 and the late 1820s.⁴³ According to noncontemporary accounts and maps (Figure 1), the school building was located slightly east of the John Hart memorial and it measured 15 feet by 20 feet.⁴⁴ The school was used for “Sunday” school and may have

⁴¹ Witnessstonesproject.org. Accessed January 29, 2023. <https://witnessstonesproject.org/?s=friday+truehart>.

⁴² Dean H. Ashton. Hopewell Academy (Forerunner of Brown University) and the Lives of Outstanding Graduates. Hopewell, NJ: Douglas Dixon, 2019. Accessed January 29, 2023. <https://data.hopewell-history.org/hvhist/Hopewell-History/Hw-Books-Historic/1960-Ashton-Hopewell-Academy.pdf>.

⁴³ Ralph Ege. *Pioneers of Old Hopewell, with Sketched of Her Revolutionary War Heros*. Hopewell, NJ: Race & Savidge. 1908. Accessed January 29, 2023. https://archive.org/stream/pioneersoldhope00egegoog/pioneersoldhope00egegoog_djvu.txt.

⁴⁴ Ashton, “Hopewell Academy.”

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served as the earliest community school in the area.⁴⁵ Bricks from the demolished school may have been used in the construction of John Boggs' tomb in the cemetery.⁴⁶ No further description could be obtained.

Sheds Demolished Within and Outside of the Period of Significance

A series of sheds occupied the northern portion of the district at times. Between 1875 and 1912 a long stable stretched entirely along what was the back end of cemetery at that time.⁴⁷ The shed had a gable roof and open stalls facing southeast (Figure 3), but no other details about this building are known.

Between 1912 and 1927, the single long shed was either partially demolished or replaced by a shorter shed, which was located in the northeast portion of the district. Additionally, two similar-length sheds were constructed north of the shed at that time. Each shed was estimated to be fifty feet long and was referred to collectively as "Team Sheds" (Figure 8). No physical descriptions of these sheds could be obtained. It is unclear why the northern two sheds were demolished.

Between 1912 and 1972 only the southern shed remained, referenced in 1927 as the "STGE SHED" in a fire map (Figure 10). No physical descriptions of the remaining sheds could be obtained. It is unclear why the final shed was demolished. The only remnants of these buildings are a rough paved foundation pad from one of the sheds and a rough paved road stretching across the entirety of the property remains.

Outhouse Demolished at Unknown Time

Cemetery records reference an outhouse⁴⁸, which was likely located a few hundred yards directly north of the rear exit of the church building. However, there are no descriptions of the outhouse and no records could be obtained for when it was built or demolished.

STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY

The Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery of Hopewell maintains a high level of integrity, meeting the following 6 aspects of integrity: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

The location, setting, and design have a high degree of integrity. The contributing building, site, contributing structure, and objects remain in their original location. The church retains its original 1822 design, and the cemetery remains true to the simple, grid design established in the last 1700s. The setting of the district remains

⁴⁵ The school was run by the Church's minister, served up to 30 students; the minister taught, "reading, writing and arithmetic,...English grammar and the general principles of mensuration,...Trigonometry, Navigation, Surveying and Algebra..." as quoted from Ege, "*Pioneers of Old Hopewell.*"

⁴⁶ Betty Gantz. *Hopewell's Past*. Hopewell, NJ: Robert & Richard Gantz. 2019. Accessed January 29, 2023. <https://data.hopewell-history.org/hvhist/Hopewell-History/Hw-Books-Historic/1987-Gantz-Hopewells-Past-HPL.pdf>.

⁴⁷ Everts & Stewart, and Thomas Hunter. *Combination Atlas Map of Mercer County, New Jersey*. 1875. Map; T. M. Fowler. Hopewell, NJ. Panoramic Birds-Eye View Map (1887). 1887. Map. Accessed January 29, 2023. <https://hopewellhistoryproject.org/histdata/hopewell-n-j-pano-1887-fowler-hm-edited/>.

⁴⁸ Old School Baptist Cemetery Association Plot Descriptions. Old School Baptist Manuscript Box. Hopewell Museum. Hopewell, NJ.

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true to the period of significance, as the district is largely surrounded by buildings that are original to the period of significance and still retains a small-town setting with sidewalks and mature trees.

The materials used throughout the district are true to the period of significance. The only change to the church building is the addition of aluminum and glass storm windows. While burials in the cemetery continued after the period of significance, the same materials were employed in gravestones (namely granite and cast iron).

The workmanship exhibited throughout the district shows physical evidence of the people of the time. Particularly notable are the significant structure and objects within the district that display the artisanship of stone carving and decorative iron work.

The district conveys a strong feeling of connecting to the past. The hand-carved graffiti on the balcony pews within the church, the numerous infant and young child burials from the early 1800s, and the reverence conveyed for the deceased connected to the Revolutionary War, are all examples of how history is brought to life in this property.

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SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

The Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery of Hopewell¹ is significant under Criterion C at the local level in the areas of architecture and art because: the church, built in 1822, is a good example of a vernacular Federal style church building and the surrounding cemetery embodies distinctive characteristics of early eighteenth and nineteenth-century cemetery landscape; and because it contains objects of high artistic value. The period of significance starts in 1749, the date of the oldest identifiable tombstone, and ends in 1907, the date of the last land expansion of the cemetery. The Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery of Hopewell meets Criteria Consideration A for religious properties because the property derives its significance from the architectural value of the church and cemetery and the high artistic value of the three professional Colonial Era carved tombstones within the cemetery.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significance in the Area of Architecture (Criterion C)

The district is significant in the area of architecture, as the church is a good local example of a 19th-century two-story vernacular Federal style church with a high level of integrity and because the cemetery embodies the distinctive characteristics of an early 18th and 19th century cemetery landscape. The cemetery is also significant because it reflects distinct burial trends, material usage, and religious influences over the life of the property's use. The current church was constructed in 1822, replacing the original 1747 church that was in the same location.

Church

Some characteristics of Federal style architecture embodied in the Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell include: brick construction; windows are aligned horizontally and vertically in symmetrical rows; overall, the design is balanced and symmetrical; fanlights; attenuated classical columns or pilasters; and delicate, often attenuated interior molding.

The 1822 building also retains the following key characteristics: three walls of solid brick masonry construction and a fourth wall of fieldstone; matching double entrance doors with inset paneling; painted white exterior trim, strict symmetry; classical columns; large double-hung windows with thin frames; an open room imparting a sense of airiness; a central pulpit; bulls eye corner blocks at the top the interior door frames; a circular window; and interior plaster ceiling molding.

Cemetery

The cemetery retains the tight, grid-like layout that was established with the formation of the cemetery in 1749 and synonymous with mid-18th and 19th century cemetery landscape (See Section 7, pages 6-7). While many

¹ While the district is in Hopewell Borough, the property is commonly referred to as simply "of Hopewell" (likely because the name predates the formation of the Borough), and that terminology is reflected in this nomination.

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cemeteries shifted to the memorial park model in the late 1800s (as was popular at the time) with winding roads and horticultural art, the Old School Baptist Cemetery perpetuated the grid format. The cemetery has the following additional key characteristics: a gate enclosing the cemetery, close burial locations, and a lack of significant horticultural elements. Spacing and ground depressions found in the colonial section of the cemetery suggests the possibility of unmarked graves creating a tighter grid layout than may be visible today. As the cemetery expanded, early to mid-1800s tombstones were typically located further east from the colonial-period section (into the area of land donated in 1852) and showed an increasing classic revival influence, reflecting funerary trends brought by the Second Great Awakening. While funerary art shifted during this time from a focus on reminding the living of mortality to a focus on memorializing the deceased² and small obelisk and temple-like memorials can be found in the cemetery from this time-period, the tight grid layout wasn't sway. Likewise, during the second and third expansions of the cemetery (areas donated to the congregation in 1873 and 1907), the layout continued to remain simple, rigid, and unadorned. Late 1800s and early 1900s tombstones, primarily made of granite, became more stylistic with a wider variety of shapes and engravings enabled by the introduction in the 1850s of polishers and pneumatic hammers.³ However, this doesn't affect the cemetery landscape as they still align follow the grid pattern in the cemetery. Similarly, though family plots (See Section 7, Page 7) in the cemetery use space in multiple rows, they continue to remain aligned with the established rows and avoiding breakage from the grided layout.

Comparative Evaluation of Federal Style Churches and 18th and 19th century cemeteries

When comparing the district to other church and cemetery properties, the district shares many characteristics with other 18th and 19th century churches. These characteristics include gated cemeteries, gable-fronted and solid masonry buildings, an emphasis on symmetry, the presence of balconies, and the presence of a central pulpit.

Many properties included in the survey are a combination of an 18th century cemetery and a 19th century church (replacing an older building), as is the case with the Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery of Hopewell. Six of the church properties surveyed had cemeteries. They were established between 1740-1772 and had newer, replacement churches dating 1822-1837.

Properties with notable similarities include the Federal style St. James Lutheran National Church and Cemetery (also known as Straw Church) in Warren County, New Jersey⁴; the Old Presbyterian Meetinghouse in Alexandria, Virginia⁵; and the Cold Spring Presbyterian Church of Lower Township, New Jersey.⁶ All have

² Sarapin, *Old Burial Ground of New Jersey: A Guide*. Page

³ Some tombstones from the early 1900s were likely created by a stonecutters Seville & Reid who were located at 39 Modal Street by 1901. William I. Reid later renamed the business the Hopewell Marble and Granite Works and expanded to 9 Mercer Street by 1912. Both locations are on the northwest corner of the same block as the Old School Baptist Church and advertised "monuments, headstones, and markers, etc."

⁴ National Register of Historic Places, St. James Lutheran Church, Pohatcong Township, New Jersey, NRIS #16000737. Accessed March 30, 2023. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/137293c9-0e1c-4a06-bad5-046f655dc965>.

⁵ National Register of Historic Places, Old Presbyterian Meetinghouse, Alexandria, Virginia, NRIS #01000143. Accessed March 30, 2023. <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/100-0098/>.

⁶ National Register of Historic Places, Cold Spring Presbyterian Church, Lower Township, New Jersey, NRIS # 91000785. Accessed August 14, 2023. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/72401992-9676-4137-93b6-5e1f1ca6a356>.

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a similar substantial brick exterior, dual entrance doors, similar balcony configuration, balcony paneling, and supporting classic columns. St. James and Cold Springs Presbyterian also have cemeteries of several hundred memorials, including some excellent mid to late 1700's carved tombstone examples.

However, the Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery of Hopewell is notable for several reasons. First, the church is built in Federal style, which was a less common choice for a church during this time-period in New Jersey. Of the roughly eleven hundred churches in New Jersey that survive from the 18th and 19th centuries, more than two-thirds are Gothic in style.⁷ Within the remaining one-third, "rural" or "early 19th century" vernacular buildings were most common based on the sample comparative analysis (Please see Appendix 1).

Second, the Old School Baptist cemetery is unique in its large scale, consistent layout, high concentration of gravestones from the 18th and 19th centuries and is in very good condition. Unlike many cemeteries that originated in the 18th century, the Old School Baptist cemetery of Hopewell retained its original, tight grid layout. Like other churches surveyed, the cemetery is a denominational burial ground for church members, rather than a family, public, or commercial burial ground. But it is unusual in the westward facing orientation of burials (as most cemeteries of this period face east).⁸

Last, the district also has a very high degree of integrity. 64% of churches surveyed had been renovated over time to include significant additions or features from later periods such as the addition of stained-glass windows, pipe organs, steeples, replaced simple classic columns with more ornate versions, or reduced the built-in pulpit to a carpeted stage. For example, St. James Lutheran Church and Cemetery has a substantial addition to the southeast corner of the original church building as well as a non-original cupola, both added in 1960. Likewise, the property has seen additional changes after its period of significance. As stated in the nomination:

"Roadbed and shoulder alterations to the course of U.S. Route 22 overtime impacted the church grounds of St. James; most notably along the front of the church. A 20' wide yard area low stone walls, trees and hitching posts that lined the roadway in the late 19th century (...), were consumed as the roadway was widened during the automobile age. The last remnant of the early yard, expressly accounted for in the congregation's acquisition of the property in 1833, was sacrificed for the construction of an additional west-bound traffic lane in 2010. At that time, the current concrete stairways and ramp (lined with modern decorative metal railings) that provide circulation between the church grounds and sanctuary were erected."⁹

However, Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery of Hopewell has not been altered in such ways. It maintains its 1907 size and its cemetery has not been subjected to intrusive changes as evidenced by the absence of larger modern monuments and absence of any significant nonhistorical landscaping, adding to the district's level of integrity. Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery of Hopewell retains a high degree of integrity compared to some of the other examples in Appendix 1.

⁷ Frank L. Greenagel. *The New Jersey Churchscape*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2001. Page

⁸ Sarapin, *Old Burial Ground of New Jersey: A Guide*. Page

⁹ National Register of Historic Places, St. James Lutheran Church, Pohatcong Township, New Jersey, NRIS #16000737.

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Construction of the Extant Church (1822) and Expansion of the Cemetery

In 1822, the original stone meetinghouse was torn down and replaced in the same location with the current brick and stone church. It is not clear if portions of the original 1747 church were re-used to construct the 1822 church or not, but the brick was described as having been, "fired by Esquire David Stout, the same as used by Mr. Stout to build a new section on his father's house at Amwell Road."¹⁰ Construction-related costs were still being paid by the congregation in 1823 and 1824.¹¹

The design of the building reflected the values of the congregation: a central pulpit that placed the sermon "center-stage"; open bench pews that suggested a level of fraternity among congregants (as opposed to gated box pews); and a building that yet had ornamentation and an aspirational scale, suggesting a shift from early Calvinist austerity.

The decision to build the 1822 church was likely influenced by three factors. First, a small house that was located between the 1747 church and the neighboring present-day wine and liquor store building (see Section 7, page 1) was torn down in 1803¹², likely creating room for a slightly bigger church. Second, congregant Ezekial Stout left a financial legacy to the congregation that helped partially fund construction¹³ (although donations were also solicited locally, in Philadelphia, and New York). And third, a new turnpike was to be developed between Franklin Township in Somerset County and the city known today as Lambertville (the turnpike was proximate to Hopewell, but did not traverse through Hopewell), which would increase visitation to the area.

The cemetery, which started off as only $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre, also expanded. First, a school building constructed in the cemetery in 1795 was demolished in the late 1820s. An additional lot to the northeast was purchased in 1852, making way for more burials – an area that is now highly concentrated with late 1800s burials.¹⁴ Long stables or sheds that appear in 1887¹⁵ and 1912¹⁶ maps (Figures 3, 8, and 10) were reduced and then demolished, allowing for even further cemetery development north of the road that provides circulation within the cemetery. These changes allowed for the cemetery to expand to its current dimensions. More contemporary burials (1907 to present day) are generally located northeast of the road, with areas north and northwest of the road, where sheds originally stood, largely devoid of tombstones (Photo #0008).

¹⁰ Ashton, "Hopewell Academy."

¹¹ Trustee Book for the First Baptist Church of Hopewell, 1812-1824. Old School Baptist files. The Hopewell Museum. Hopewell, NJ.

¹² Blackwell, "History of Hopewell Village."

¹³ *Old School Baptist Church of New Jersey Minute Book 1*. Entry dated July 3, 1822. The Hopewell Museum. Hopewell, NJ.

¹⁴ Gantz, "Hopewell's Past."

¹⁵ Fowler, *Panoramic Birds-Eye View Map (1887)*.

¹⁶ Sanborn Map Company. 1912. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Hopewell, Mercer County, New Jersey. Accessed January 29, 2023. https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3814hm.g3814hm_g055101912/?sp=2.

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Significance in the Area of Art (Criterion C)

The district is also significant in the area of art, as it contains within its cemetery three objects tombstones of high artistic value derived from the artists' skill in hand-carving. They are: the 1749 Catherine Stout gravestone likely carved by artist Ebenezer Price (Photo # 0015); and the 1761 gravestone for John Hobbs and 1767 gravestone for Elizabeth Hobbs, both carved by and signed by artist Johnathan Hand Osborn (Photo #0014). The three tombstones are outstanding examples the artists' skill in hand-carving stone. The Hobbs memorials feature unique hand-carved fluting, trilobate fans, flowers, flourishes, and the artist's hand carved signature and location. The Stout memorial has a carved tympanium decorated with a somber face, angel wings, and a hovering crown or tulip, which may represent the soul's triumph over death- a reoccurring theme in mid-1700s funerary art.¹⁷ These tombstones in particular stand out as other mid-to-late 18th century tombstones in the cemetery are simple and rough cut, usually with deceased's name and date of death roughly etched on them (Photo #0013). While more than half of them are lobe or trilobate shaped (reminiscent of a bed or doorway),¹⁸ none are as artistically detailed and well carved as these three. Additionally, despite some damage from lawn care and centuries of weathering, the carvings have remained in pristine condition, affording it a great level of integrity.

SUPPLEMENTAL HISTORY

Land Ownership

Hopewell Township was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1755 and re-incorporated by an act of the New Jersey Legislature in 1798 as one of 104 of the state's initial townships. Today's Hopewell Borough was sometimes referred to as "Columbia" (possibly the name of the post location) and sometimes referred to as "Hopewell Meetinghouse" (more of a geographic description than a town name, indicating the importance of the church in the area).¹⁹

In 1688, Daniel Cox's²⁰ land agent, Adlord Bowe, purchased about 31,000 acres along the Delaware River, north of Trenton, including the area now known as Hopewell.²¹ The land remained under Daniel Cox's

¹⁷ Veit, *New Jersey Cemeteries and Tombstones: History in the Landscape*. Page

¹⁸ The timing of the first tombstones used in the cemetery roughly aligns with the First Great Awakening when funeral iconography was shifting from images intended to remind viewers of mortality to a more positive focus on redemption and salvation.

¹⁹ Thomas Gordon. "The Hopewell Valley in 1834." *Hopewell Valley Historic Society Newsletter*, Winter 1983, Vol 8, No. 1, Page 8 1. Accessed January 29, 2023. <https://www.hopewellvalleyhistory.org/uploads/1/2/5/5/125504560/hvhs-newsletter-archives-1975-2017.pdf>; Originally part of Burlington County, then Hunterdon County in 1714, Hopewell changed to Mercer County in 1838 when Mercer County was created. Hopewell Borough formed in 1891.

²⁰ Some records show that Cox is also spelled as Coxe; Marfy Goodspeed. "West NJ 1688 & Daniel Coxe." Goodspeedhistories.com. Last modified July 4, 2010. Accessed January 30, 2023. <https://goodspeedhistories.com/west-nj-1688-and-daniel-coxe-part-1/>.

²¹ Marfy Goodspeed. "John Reading & the Creation of Hunterdon County (Part 1)". Goodspeedhistories.com. Last modified November 21, 2014. Accessed January 29, 2023. <https://goodspeedhistories.com/john-reading-the-creation-of-hunterdon-county-part-1/#fn-9094-6>.

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ownership through at least 1707²², even after West New Jersey became part of the royal colony. A series of land ownership disputes in the early 1700s makes ownership unclear, but Edward Hart (1685-1752), a farmer and captain in the French and Indian War, settled in the area around in the early 1710s and likely lived on the land.²³

Edward Hart and his son John Hart (1711-1779), who would go on in the 1770s to serve in the Continental Congress and sign the Declaration of Independence, became involved in a larger-scale land dispute, which forced them to re-purchase the land which included the land upon which the church and cemetery now exist.²⁴ John Cove, executor of Daniel Cox, made an agreement in 1742 to sell to Edward Hart and John Hart the plantation whereon "the said Edward Hart now dwells and resides, situate, lying, and being in Hopewell, New Jersey."²⁵ Edward and John paid off the purchase in installments until payment was complete in 1755.

In 1747 the land was informally given, likely because of lingering effects of the land dispute, to the Baptist congregation by John Hart for the construction of the church, which took place in 1747-1748. John Hart's farm was located approximately 2,000 feet northwest of the church site according to a present-day historic marker that can be found on Hart Avenue in Hopewell²⁶ (essentially the church was located in his front meadow). In 1769, John Hart signed the deed for the meeting house and original surrounding $\frac{3}{4}$ acre lot of land to formally transfer ownership to the congregation.²⁷

Additional land was owned by the congregation beyond the church lot. The church bought and sold at least four properties located throughout Hopewell Borough, which served as parsonages, including a farm that was purchased in 1773 to help supplement ministers' earnings.²⁸ The church also helped purchase the land for the Hopewell Academy, which was eventually chartered as a separate entity. The congregation was very involved in the local community.

²² James P. Snell. *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey*. Philadelphia: Everts & Peck. 1881. Accessed January 29, 2023.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=AdMwAQAAMAAJ&dq=history+of+the+presbyterian+church+kingwood+race&jtp=1>; John Worlidge and John Thornton. "A New Mapp of East and West New Jarsey [sic]: Being an Exact Survey." London, 1706; George, *A History of the Old Presbyterian Congregation of "The People of Maidenhead and Hopewell*.

²³ Ege, "Pioneers of Old Hopewell."

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Howard Jenkins. "Notes and Queries." *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, 1896, 425. Accessed January 29, 2023. <https://books.google.com/books?id=PskbAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA425&lpg=PA424&focus=viewport&dq=%22daniel+coxe%22+%22Edward+hart%22>.

²⁶ The historic marker reads, "Farmstead site of the signer, who lived here 1742-1779. Without formal education, consulted by many, respected by all, 'Honest John Hart' gave his property and his life for the cause of liberty. Farmer, miller, judge, speaker of the first New Jersey Assembly, ever the prey of enemy patrols which sought his life and ravaged his property. Broken in health from privation and exposure he died May 11, 1779, age about 69. Guided to this roadless hillside by John Hart's sons Jesse and Nathaniel, Washington's army camped here June 23-24, 1778, before the Battle of Monmouth. The spring from which they drank flows nearby. This marker jointly placed by the New Jersey Societies, Sons of the Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution, 1959."

²⁷ Gedney, Gill, and The New Jersey Society of Colonial Dames, "The Town Records of Hopewell, NJ." Page 137.

²⁸ Gedney, Gill, and The New Jersey Society of Colonial Dames, "The Town Records of Hopewell, NJ." Page 144.

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Hopewell Baptist Congregation Development

The Baptist congregation of Hopewell was organized in 1715 at a time when when European settlers were few. The Baptist denomination was still relatively new at this time, with the first Baptist congregation formed in 1644 and the first Baptist association (an association of 5 churches spread throughout the Mid-Atlantic) having formed only in 1707.²⁹ Johnathan Stout, who had been a member of the Middletown Baptist Church and whose father was the minister there, relocated to Hopewell in 1703 and was key to helping form the congregation. On April 23, 1715, his family held a meeting of 12 people, including ministers from Penepeck and Middletown, to form a governing church body in Hopewell.³⁰

The congregation experienced healthy growth, in spite of frequent ministerial changes and congregational discord. Between 1715 and 1747, the congregation was served by traveling or short-term ministers who were likely staying and preaching in the Stout home. Church records also note that the congregation experienced “Unhappy Differences and wasting Discords.”³¹ Despite these challenges, the congregation had grown to 40 to 50 people by the 1740s.

Construction of the Original Baptist Church (1747-1822)

In June 1747, a group of ministers interceded to resolve the congregational “discord”. They met with the congregation in Hopewell, and the meeting resulted in a “marked revival of enthusiasm and spirituality.” As a result, in August 1747 and through the following winter, a new Baptist church was constructed on the land donated to the congregation by John Hart.³²

The 1747 church, often referred to as the “Baptist Meetinghouse”, was described in a noncontemporary account as, “thirty feet wide and forty feet long,” which is smaller than the extant 1822 church. It was also described as having, “much the same appearance as the red-brick church located on the same parcel of ground today.”³³ (See Section 7, Page 11) It was also around this time that the cemetery was developed on the North and East sides of the church, with the first known burial occurring in 1749.

The first minister in the original church was Isaac Eaton, who was ordained in and had been preaching in Hopewell. Eaton was one of the incorporators when the governor granted the church a charter in 1769 and founded the Hopewell Academy, which was in operation between 1756-1767.³⁴ Eaton served until his death in 1772. His tombstone, which was once located inside the original church, is now affixed to the Northeast side of the current church and it is believed he is buried under the foundation of the current building.

²⁹ David Benedict. *A General History of the Baptist Denomination in America, and Other Parts of the World*. 53rd ed. London: Lincoln & Edmands. 1813. Accessed January 29, 2023.

<https://www.reformedreader.org/history/benedict/baptistdenomination/overview.htm>.

³⁰ Gedney, Gill, and The New Jersey Society of Colonial Dames, “*The Town Records of Hopewell, NJ*.” Page 126.

³¹ *Ibid*, Page 129.

³² *Ibid*, Page 130.

³³ Ashton, “*Hopewell Academy*.”

³⁴ The Hopewell Academy became the foundation of Brown University in Rhode Island; Ege, “*Pioneers of Old Hopewell*.”

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Congregation Demographics

The congregation was a mix of nationalities and races, although predominantly Western European. Demographically, most ministers and congregation members in the 1700s and 1800s were originally English, Dutch, Irish, Scottish or born in the colonies. Additionally, church records include references to the baptisms and deaths of at least 20 congregants noted in church records as “negro” or “black” between the years of 1764 and 1843, many of whom were likely enslaved to other congregants of the church.³⁵

OUTSIDE OF THE PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

Decline of Old School Baptists in Hopewell

The Old School Baptist Church was the only church in Hopewell of any denomination until the late 1800s, when other congregations began to form, drawing away congregants. In addition to the formation of the Second Baptist Church of Hopewell in Harbourton³⁶, in 1871 a “New School” Baptist church formed and built the Calvary Baptist Church. In 1898, the First Colored Calvary Baptist Church opened a church to serve about 20 families in the African-American community and was followed in 1959 with the larger Second Calvary Baptist Church.³⁷

In 1882, the *Hopewell Herald* published the text of two sermons over separate issues: first, the text of a sermon preached at the Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell by Elder William J. Purington in favor of “Old School” views; and second, the text by Rev. H. B. Garner of the Calvary Baptist Church of Hopewell, answering to Purington and giving the “New School” view. Purington stated that the New School movement believes, “we (Old School churches) have been dying the past fifty years, but are not dead yet; and it seems that our death is too protracted to suit our enemies.”³⁸

The concern of denominational decline for Old School congregations was merited. In 1922, three lone-surviving members of the Second Baptist Church of Hopewell in Harbourton gave the deed to their church to the Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell for one dollar.³⁹ By 1940, the Old School Church of Hopewell and one in Locktown⁴⁰ were the only remaining Old School churches in New Jersey. A local newspaper article from that year illustrates an unfavorable view of the denomination when it reported on the Hopewell church, “in this the 20th century the local church exists without an organ, Sunday school, does not support foreign missions, its pastors are not university trained and the congregation still sits facing the front door.”⁴¹

³⁵ Gedney, Gill, and The New Jersey Society of Colonial Dames, “*The Town Records of Hopewell, NJ.*” Pages 134-170.

³⁶ Harbourton is an unincorporated community located within Hopewell Township, Mercer County, New Jersey.

³⁷ David Blackwell. “Hopewell: 270 Years of History, 125 Years as a Borough.” Thehopewellmuseum.org. The Hopewell Museum, Accessed January 29, 2023. Accessed January 29, 2023. <https://thehopewellmuseum.org/about-hopewell>.

³⁸ Blackwell, “History of Hopewell Village.”

³⁹ Betsy Errikson. “Second Baptist Church of Hopewell, Also Known as Harbourton Baptist Church, Founded 1803.” *Hopewell Valley Historic Society Newsletter*. May 1977, Vol. II, No. 3, Page 2. Accessed January 29, 2023.

<https://www.hopewellvalleyhistory.org/uploads/1/2/5/5/125504560/hvhs-newsletter-archives-1975-2017.pdf>.

⁴⁰ National Register of Historic Places, Locktown Baptist Church, Stockton, New Jersey, NRIS #74001166. Accessed August 15, 2023. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/e025e2b2-6f06-4c11-8670-76766358732b>.

⁴¹ “Local Church Is 225 Years Old.” *Hopewell Herald* (Hopewell, NJ), April 3, 1940.

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The congregation continued to dwindle. In 1949, the congregation switched to visiting “elders” (as opposed to a dedicated minister) and by the 1970s the congregation was meeting only once a month. In 1966, the church ceded ownership of the cemetery to the newly formed Old School Baptist Cemetery Association⁴², possibly to establish a long-term plan for the maintenance of the cemetery, but the property was eventually rejoined.⁴³ In 1969, recognizing that only 5 living members remained, a historic trust was formed for the church and cemetery that would come into effect once it ceased being a church.⁴⁴ In November 1973, the Old School Baptist Church’s last deacon and male member passed away and by February 1974, the only remaining member and church clerk terminated her position, thus closing all regular services.⁴⁵

Life as a Private Foundation and Museum

The trustees that were in place when the church closed in 1974, changed the tax status of the church from a religious organization to that of a 501c3 Private Foundation and Museum, and by April 1974 set up a trust for its preservation.⁴⁶ The trustees have since largely passed their trustee positions on to their family members who have maintained the church and cemetery, opening the building occasionally for special events and allowing occasional burials for people who were associated with the congregation. They have kept the building and cemetery in excellent condition.

ADDITIONAL HISTORY

“Old School” Religious Philosophy

In 1834, 12 years after the construction of the extant church, the Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery of Hopewell, which was previously known as the First Baptist Church of Hopewell, made an important shift that was reflective of a larger shift taking place in the Baptist denomination – they changed the name of the church and congregation to “Old School Baptist Church” and broke from the New Jersey Baptist Association.

The Second Great Awakening, a time of mass revivals with an emphasis on religious conversion experiences, was taking place at this time. Within the Baptist denomination there was a shift from believing in predestination – that God himself chose who would be saved – to a growing focus on foreign missions and evangelism. But some portions of the denomination disagreed with this shift, including the Hopewell congregation.

⁴² Mercer County, New Jersey, Deed Book 1770, Page 933, Trustees of the Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell to The Old School Baptist Cemetery Association, Nov. 8, 1966. New Jersey State Archives, Trenton, NJ.

⁴³ Mercer County, New Jersey, Deed Book 2065, Page 330, The Old School Baptist Cemetery Association to the Trustees of the Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell, Feb. 14, 1978.

⁴⁴ “Trust Created for Colonial Church.” *Town Topics*. April 10, 1969. Princeton, NJ. Accessed July 31, 2023.

<https://papersofprinceton.princeton.edu/princetonperiodicals/?a=d&d=TownTopics19690410-01.2.107.1&e=-----en-20--1--txt-IN-%22old+school%22----->.

⁴⁵ *First Baptist Church of Hopewell Minute Book 4, 1966-1974*. Control #PHOPE001, Reel 1. Records of the Hopewell Baptist Church. New Jersey State Archives, Newark, NJ.

⁴⁶Ibid.

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In 1832, a congregation of Baptists in Maryland issued the “Black Rock Declaration” stating their anti-mission stance and calling themselves the “Old School” or “Primitive” Baptists as a way to voice their disagreement and distinguish themselves from other Baptists. One of the authors of the “Black Rock Declaration”, Samuel Trott, had served as the minister for the Second Baptist Church of Hopewell, located in nearby Harbours town, NJ, and was friends with Rev. John Boggs, then minister for the First Baptist Church of Hopewell and may have influenced both Hopewell churches. In 1834, both the First and Second Baptist Churches of Hopewell officially changed to Old School Baptist. The First Baptist Church of Hopewell then became known as the Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell.⁴⁷

The congregation of the Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell strived to “live in the simple New Testament pattern of divine worship,” where services consisted of “hymn singing, prayer, and preaching,” and as a result, they did not make substantial changes to their property. Unlike many other churches that added pipe organs during the late 1800s, the congregation believed, “the use of instruments is undesirable in that it tends to bring in carnal entertainment as a substitute for the real melody of the heart (Eph. 5:19).” Also unlike many congregations, the congregation in Hopewell did not have “Sunday Schools or any of the auxiliary attachments so common in the denominational world today”⁴⁸ The congregation felt, “extremely desirous of maintaining as much as possible the old land markers of their forefathers.”⁴⁹ Congregational beliefs contributed to the preservation of the district.

Revolutionary War

Both the congregation and the church grounds were associated with the Revolutionary War, which influenced the way later generations viewed the site and influenced the types of memorials they built or placed on the site. During the Revolutionary War, both British and Continental soldiers passed through the district and congregants were actively involved in advocating and fighting for American independence.

On Sunday, April 23, 1775, news of the battle of Lexington reached Hopewell while the congregation was worshipping. At the close of service, a member of the congregation, Joab Houghton, who would go on to serve as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Continental Army and serve in the first State Legislature, gave a rallying speech for independence on the property, which was very influential in spurring local involvement in the war.⁵⁰

Several congregants died while fighting in the war. Church records from 1776 show that James Merrel was, “slain in yⁿ field of Battle contending for our just Rights” and Solomon Stout, “son of Abraham decease on field of battle on yⁿ White plains in York”. At least 16 Revolutionary War veterans are buried in the cemetery.⁵¹

⁴⁷ Blackwell, "History of Hopewell Village."

⁴⁸ Norvel P. Mann. *An Introduction to the Old School, or Primitive Baptist Church*. Cincinnati: Baptist Bible Hour, Inc. Date Unknown. Pamphlet.

⁴⁹ "An Old Historic Church Remodeled."

⁵⁰ Thomas S. Griffiths. *A History of Baptists in New Jersey*. Hightstown, NJ: Bar Press Publishing Company, 1904. Accessed January 29, 2023. <https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/public/gdcmassbookdig/historyofbaptist01grif/historyofbaptist01grif.pdf>.

⁵¹ Old School Baptist Cemetery Association Plot Descriptions. Old School Baptist files. The Hopewell Museum. Hopewell, NJ.

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The congregation actively rejected loyalists. A 1776 church record shows James Stogdon was excommunicated for “joining to our enemies yⁿ Kings troops to destroy us.”⁵² The strong revolutionary war stance of the congregation was notable, as British soldiers were making daily raids through the neighborhood in 1776.⁵³

On June 22 through June 25, 1778, an estimated 12,000 Continental soldiers camped nearby, primarily on John Hart’s land⁵⁴, for two days. The encampment extended between present-day Van Dyke Road and Province Line Road, which is an estimated 3,000 feet away from the church and cemetery, situated on a ridgeline at a higher elevation. Given the scale of the encampment, and the 1747 church and cemetery’s position relative to the encampment, soldiers may have traversed the property as camp leaders referenced the property their correspondence. Major General Charles Lee wrote to George Washington on June 22, 1778 that he held a position that, “commands likewis both the roads to Princeton that by Pennyton and that inclining to Hopewell meeting house (sic).”⁵⁵ George Washington’s letters on June 23 and June 24th of 1788 indicated he was staying at “John Hunts (...) near the Baptist meeting House” and signed letters “near the Baptist Meeting”, indicating that the church property was in close proximity and also that it was a well-known landmark at the time.⁵⁶

The district experienced additional conflict later in the war. In 1781, General Philemon Dickinson reported to George Washington, “I formed a large body of Militia between (the enemy) & the Sound, a second, at the Baptist Meeting House in Hopewell; a third at Crosswicks—a fourth at South Amboy...”⁵⁷ In 1779, church records note “A business meeting [was] alarmed by the enemy and adjourned”.⁵⁸

The property’s association with the Revolutionary War later sparked memorials within the cemetery. The graves of the Revolutionary War veterans buried in the cemetery received additional honor with the placement of bronze Sons of the Revolution grave markers⁵⁹. The remains of John Hart, congregant and church land donor, were relocated to the cemetery and memorialized with an obelisk in 1864. The monument, which states it was directed by a New Jersey legislative act⁶⁰, honored his role as a Delegate to the Continental Congress and Signer of the Declaration of Independence. A memorial, erected July 4th, 1896 by the people of Hopewell to Joab Houghton, was constructed in the Old School Baptist Cemetery to commemorate his 1775 pro-independence speech.

⁵² Gedney, Gill, and The New Jersey Society of Colonial Dames. “*The Town Records of Hopewell, NJ.*” Page 176.

⁵³ Ege, “*Pioneers of Old Hopewell.*”

⁵⁴ John Hart lived in the Joseph Stout House; National Register of Historic Places, Stout, Joseph, House, Hopewell, New Jersey. (NRIS# 74001169).

⁵⁵ Charles Lee. Letter, “To George Washington from Major General Charles Lee, 22 June 1778,” June 22, 1778. National Archives, Washington, DC. Accessed January 29, 2023. <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-15-02-0524>.

⁵⁶ Ibid; George Washington. Letter, “From George Washington to Major General Philemon Dickinson, 24 June 1778,” June 24, 1778.

Washington Papers. National Archives, Washington, DC. <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-15-02-0545>;

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Washington Papers. National Archives, Washington, DC. <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-15-02-0530>.

⁵⁷ Philemon Dickinson. Letter, “To George Washington from Philemon Dickinson, 12 January 1781,” January 12, 1781. Washington Papers. National Archives, Washington, DC. <https://founders.archives.gov/?q=hopewell%20baptist&s=1111311111&sa=&r=8&sr=>

⁵⁸ Gedney, Gill, and The New Jersey Society of Colonial Dames. “*The Town Records of Hopewell, NJ.*” Page 142.

⁵⁹ Date of placement could not be determined. Sons of the Revolution were established in 1876. While the NJ chapter of this organization was organized in 1891, it was not incorporated until 1923.

⁶⁰ New Jersey. *1865 Acts of the Legislature*. Chapter 430 (CCCCXXX), p. 777. Approved 5 April 1865.

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The property was frequently noted in promotional material and the news as being associated with a signer of the Declaration of Independence (Figure 3). Although the 1822 church building was constructed after the war, the property was sometimes promoted in association with the Revolutionary War, for example as the “Old School Baptist Meetinghouse of Revolutionary Fame.”⁶¹

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⁶¹ G.E. Pierson. *Old School Baptist Meetinghouse of Revolutionary Fame*. New York, N.Y: Anglo American Publishing Company. Postcard. Stamped 1908. Christie Alderman Collection. Location of postcard: 2 Huntington Dr. Annandale, NJ 08801.

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Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Deed Book 241, Page 371, Mary Purrington to The Old School Baptist Church, 1907. Hunterdon County Archives, Flemington, NJ.

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Verbal Boundary

The nominated property consists of a 4.24-acre parcel (Block 14, Lot 13), bounded by West Broad Street on the southeast, houses on the northeast, a store and Mercer Street on the southwest, and houses on the northwest in the Borough of Hopewell.

Boundary Justification

The proposed boundary includes the whole of the cemetery and the current church (which is situated on the site of the original church). This encompasses the original $\frac{3}{4}$ acre granted to the congregation in the 1700s; a lot purchased in 1852 to the east of the original land; and expansion further northeast in 1873; and an expansion north of the cemetery road (Photo #0009) in 1907 on to land that was previously occupied by horse sheds; and small lot line adjustments made with the neighboring commercial property (then a hotel) in 1900 and 1966.

The proposed boundary, with the changes noted above, has been intact since at least 1966, when a deed transferring the cemetery to a separate cemetery association (the description repeated when it was later transferred back to the church in whole in 1977) described the property as follows:

“Beginning at an iron pin in the easterly line of Mercer Street said point bears along said line North thirty degrees thirty-one minutes West (N 30° 31' W) two hundred fifty-three and seventy-four hundredths (253.74) feet from the intersection of said line with the northerly line of Broad Street and running, thence; (1) along said easterly line of Mercer Street North thirty degrees thirty-one minutes West (N 30° 31' W) twelve and fifty-two hundredths (12.52) feet to the center of a concrete monument, thence; (2) along lands now or formerly of Herman H. Edling, North sixty-two degrees twenty-three minutes East (N 62° 23' E) one hundred four and twenty-one hundredths (104.21) feet to the center of the concrete monument, thence; (3) along said lands of Edling and lands of Hopewell Valley Post 339 American Legion, North twenty-three degrees sixteen minute seven seconds West (N 23° 16' 07" W) one hundred sixty-seven and twenty-nine hundredths (167.29) feet to the center of a concrete monument, thence; (4) along said lands of Hopewell Valley Post 339 American Legion North sixty-six degrees fifteen minutes East (N 66° 15' E) four hundred forty-seven and ninety-eight hundredths (447.98) feet to the center of the concrete monument, thence; (5) along the westerly terminus of Center Street and lands now or formerly of Fred H. Noll South twenty-eight degrees seven minutes two seconds East (S 28° 07' 02" E) thirty-four and forty-two hundredths (34.42) feet to a point, thence; (6) along said lines of Noll and lands now or formerly of Hugh C. Hoffman et ux, South twenty-nine degrees twenty-nine minutes twenty-one seconds (S 29° 29' 21" E) three hundred forty-four and eighty-one hundredths (344.81) feet to a cut in the sidewalk, thence; (7) along the aforementioned line of Broad Street South fifty-nine degrees fifty-nine minutes thirty seconds West (S 59° 59' 30" W) four hundred seventy-one and twenty hundredths (471.20) feet to an iron pin, thence; (8) along lands of John Palaschak, Jr., et ux, the following five (5) courses North thirty degrees forty-three minutes fourteen seconds West (N 30° 43' 14" W) one hundred fifty-six and sixty-nine hundredths (156.69) feet to a point, thence; (9) North twenty-three degrees sixteen minutes seven seconds West (N 23° 16' 07" W) twenty-one and thirty-six hundredths (21.36) feet to the center of a concrete monument, thence; (10) North sixty-four degrees four minutes thirty-three seconds East (N 64° 04' 33" E) twenty-five and twenty-five hundredths (25.25) feet to the center of concrete monument, thence; (11) North twenty-three degrees sixteen minutes seven seconds West (N 23° 16' 07" W) seventy-two and eighty hundredths (72.80) feet to the center of a concrete monument, thence; (12) South sixty-two degrees twenty-three minutes West (S 62° 23' W) one hundred twenty-seven and ninety-two hundredths (127.92) feet to the iron pin and place of BEGINNING.
Containing 4.24 acres.”

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The following information applies to all photos:

Name of Property: The Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery of Hopewell

City or Vicinity: Hopewell Borough

County: Mercer Co.

State: NJ

Name of Photographer: Christie Alderman for all photos except photo 6, Ian Levine for photo 6

Date of Photographs: October 2022 and April, 2023

Location of Original Digital Copies: 2 Huntington Dr Annandale, NJ 08801

Photo #1 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0001)
Exterior. South corner of the Old School Baptist Church showing the two primary entrance doors.

Photo #2 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0002)
Exterior. East side of Old School Baptist Church, showing Rev. Isaac Eaton's memorial stone affixed to building and enshrined in wood and glass.

Photo #3 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0003)
Exterior. Northeast corner of the Old School Baptist Church.

Photo #4 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0004)
Exterior. View of the northeast and southeast walls and a portion of the historic gate.

Photo #5 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0005)
Exterior. Photo of road that crosses through the cemetery (also likely a foundation pad for sheds that previously were on the property).

Photo #6 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0006)
Exterior. Photo of uncounted storage shed.

Photo #7 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0007)
Exterior. Looking south toward the church from the road that crosses through the cemetery.

Photo #8 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0008)
Exterior. Looking northeast in cemetery from road that passes through cemetery.

Photo #9 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0019)
Exterior. Joab Houghton memorial, which is an uncounted object.

Photo #10 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0010)
Exterior. Detail of historic gate, labeled by manufacturer, which is a contributing structure.

Photo #11 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0011)

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Memorial to John Hart, who was reinterred in this location, donated the land for the church in 1747, and was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. This memorial is an uncounted object.

Photo #12 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0012)
Exterior. Memorial plaque for Friday Truehart. Truehart was enslaved at the age of 13 by a reverend of the church, Rev. Oliver Hart, and was a member of the congregation.

Photo #13 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0013)
Exterior. Tombstone for Annie Stout (d. 1784). Example of rustic carved sandstone tombstone, likely locally inscribed.

Photo #14 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0014)
Exterior. Tombstones for John Hobbs (d. 1761) and Elizabeth Hobbs (d. 1767). These tombstones were carved and labeled by professional tombstone maker, Jonathan Hand Osbourne of Scotch Plains, NJ. These memorials are contributing objects.

Photo #15 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0015)
Exterior. Tombstone of Catherine Stout (d. 1749). This tombstone is in the style of professional tombstone carver Ebenezer Price. A later-added tombstone footer obscures the location Price would normally inscribe his work, so this cannot be confirmed. The decoration of this brown sandstone tombstone is primarily located in the tympanum, with a wiggled head surrounded by wings and what may be either a crown or tulip above. While there are several tombstones of similar shape and material near this tombstone, this is the oldest legible tombstone in the cemetery. This memorial is a contributing object.

Photo #16 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0016)
Exterior. Unidentifiable granite tombstones. Example of family plot with remnants of gate. There are several examples of gated family plots within the cemetery (most with the iron portions of gates now missing and only the stone posts remaining).

Photo #17 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0017)
Exterior. Bond family memorial and gated plot, which honors Amos C. Bond, his wives and children. The memorial is architectural in style, with a Greek key frieze carved in polished granite. The plot was fenced in, although only the granite fence posts remain.

Photo #18 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0018)
Interior. First floor, looking north.

Photo #19 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0019) Interior.
Looking from the pulpit to balcony.

Photo #20 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0020)
Interior. First floor, looking south.

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Photo #21 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0021)
Interior. First floor, looking north.

Photo #22 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0022)
Interior. Second floor, looking southeast down from the balcony to the first floor.

Photo #23 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0023)
Interior. Second floor, photo of graffiti carved into pew. Includes carved letters and "1830".

Photo #24 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0024)
Interior. Second floor, photo of graffiti carved into pew. Includes carved letters and "1823".

Photo #25 (NJ_Mercer County_The Old School Baptist Church of Hopewell and Cemetery_0025)
Interior. Second floor, photo looking south.

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The following table lists 19th century churches and 18th century cemeteries in New Jersey for which data was found in National Register nominations for comparative analysis. The desktop survey is not a comprehensive list but is instead a representative sample.

Location	Property Name	Date of Construction / Style	Gable-end	Solid Masonry	Symmetry	2 Story	2 Main Doors	Similar Balcony	Similar Pews Molding	Central Pulpit	Similar Aises	Similar Columns	Cemetery Scale	Cemetery Fence	Differences
Lawrenceville, NJ Mercer County	Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville¹ - (Part of the Lawrenceville Historic District, NRIS# 72000799)	1764, but expanded and renovated in 1833, with some additions in 1853./ Style not provided	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Church: general more ornate, including cast iron columns with stylized Egyptian caps, Greek Revival plaster details, ornate pipe organ, cupola, and a curvilinear balcony. Cemetery: hedged enclosure
Locktown, NJ Hunterdon County	Locktown Baptist Church² - Listed; (NRIS# 74001166)	Cemetery 1749 Current church 1819/ Rural <i>Also an Old School Baptist Congregation</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Church: solid stone masonry, smaller in scale, simpler trim, simple pews. Cemetery: smaller in scale, difference in condition
Kingwood Township, NJ Hunterdon County	Old Stone Church³ (Presbyterian) - Listed; (NRIS# 100002053)	Cemetery 1754 Current church 1837/ Early 19 th Century rural	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Church: solid stone masonry, smaller in scale, simpler trim, simple pews. Cemetery: smaller in scale, difference in condition, no enclosure
Warren Township, NJ Somerset County	Mount Bethel Baptist Meetinghouse⁴ - Listed; (NRIS# 76001187)	Church 1761, with renovations in 1818 and 1835/ Colonial	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N/A	N	N/A	Y	N	N	Church: hooded doors, beam construction with brick infill, wood siding Cemetery: smaller

¹ National Register of Historic Places, Lawrenceville Historic District, Lawrenceville, New Jersey. NRIS# 72000799. Accessed March 30, 2023. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/6bc3535a-ebb8-445c-89f3-adc4705ef41b>.

² National Register of Historic Places, Locktown Baptist Church, Stockton, New Jersey. NRIS #74001166.

³ National Register of Historic Places, Old Stone Presbyterian Church in Kingwood, Kingwood Township, New Jersey. NRIS# 100002053. Accessed March 30, 2023. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/5e201045-1c17-4016-bb68-241566f5b3b9>.

⁴ National Register of Historic Places, Mount Bethel Baptist Meetinghouse, Warren Township, New Jersey. NRIS# 76001187. Accessed March 30, 2023. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/091abb8a-faad-4303-8375-50e84adcfe2a>.

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Location	Property Name	Date of Construction / Style	Gable-end	Solid Masonry	Symmetry	2 Story	2 Main Doors	Similar Balcony	Similar Pews Molding	Central Pulpit	Similar Aisles	Similar Columns	Cemetery Scale	Cemetery Fence	Differences
South River Borough, NJ Middlesex County	Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery ⁵ - Listed; (NRIS# 91001926)	Church and cemetery 1805, with additions in 1862 <i>Also an Old School Baptist Congregation</i>	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Church: use of siding, concrete block furnace room Cemetery: newer, much smaller in scale
Blawenburg, NJ Somerset County	Reformed Church of Blawenburg ⁶ - Listed; (NRIS# 85002004)	1830-1831/ Georgian	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N/A	Y	Church: Steeple, large pipe organ, box pews, ceiling decoration, quarter windows in gable, unique 5-light windows.
Imlaystown, NJ Monmouth County	Upper Freehold Baptist Meeting House ⁷ - Listed; (NRIS# 75001147)	C. 1772, 1836 changes/ Not provided	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Church: balcony configuration, pew style (2 types), interior plank doors with wrought iron hinges, <i>Has high quality early tombstone carvings</i>
Holmdel Township, NJ Monmouth County	Upper Meeting House of the Baptist Church of Middletown ⁸ - Listed; (NRIS# 87002573)	1809/ Early 19 th Century	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N/A	N/A	Church: curved pews, cove ceilings, stain glass and arched windows, steeple, overall style
Pohatcong Township, NJ Warren County	St. James Lutheran Church ⁹ - Listed; (NRIS# 16000737)	1834/ Federal	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	Church: fan lights, tower, pulpit to "back", stain glass, substantial central window incorporated with pulpit
Lower Township, NJ Cape May County	Cold Spring Presbyterian Church ¹⁰ - Listed; (NRIS# 91000785)	Church 1823 Cemetery C.1740/ Federal	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Church: dentil cornice on exterior, enclosed pews in balcony, retained chandelier, large organ added, and different window configuration on entrance wall.

⁵ National Register of Historic Places, Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery, South River, New Jersey. NRIS# 91001926. Accessed March 30, 2023. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/2bd33ce8-ed7b-4f06-93a8-bf4b04ce9335>.

⁶ National Register of Historic Places, Reformed Dutch Church of Blawenburg, Montgomery Township, New Jersey. NRIS# 85002004. Accessed March 30, 2023. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/54550994-6f1d-4125-8fe7-ca5ab35dbb9d>.

⁷ National Register of Historic Places, Upper Freehold Baptist Meeting, Imlaystown, New Jersey. NRIS# 75001147. Accessed March 30, 2023. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/905f9339-186e-41dc-abf8-02025d84e395>.

⁸ National Register of Historic Places, Upper Meeting House of the Baptist Church of Middletown, Holmdel Township, New Jersey. NRIS# 87002573. Accessed March 30, 2023. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/32aa253a-a743-49db-b5e9-ca9420f81a07>.

⁹ National Register of Historic Places, St. James Lutheran Church, Pohatcong Township, New Jersey, NRIS# 16000737.

¹⁰ National Register of Historic Places, Cold Spring Presbyterian Church, Lower Township, New Jersey, NRIS # 91000785.

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Location	Property Name	Date of Construction / Style	Gable-end	Solid Masonry	Symmetry	2 Story	2 Main Doors	Similar Balcony	Similar Pews Molding	Central Pulpit	Similar Aisles	Similar Columns	Cemetery Scale	Cemetery Fence	Differences
Union Township, NJ	Bethlehem Baptist Church (Ruins)	1858/Unkno wn	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	Y	<p>Church: in ruins, different back side window configuration</p> <p>Cemetery: portion is masonry wall in addition to wrought iron,</p>

DRAFT






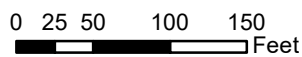
The Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery of Hopewell

New Jersey and National Registers Nomination
Hopewell Borough,
Mercer County,
New Jersey

Boundary and tax map

Legend

-  SR & NR Boundary
-  Tax Parcels
-  Coordinates



Datum: NAD 1983 State Plane New Jersey

4.24 Acres



NJDEP,
Historic Preservation Office
May 2023

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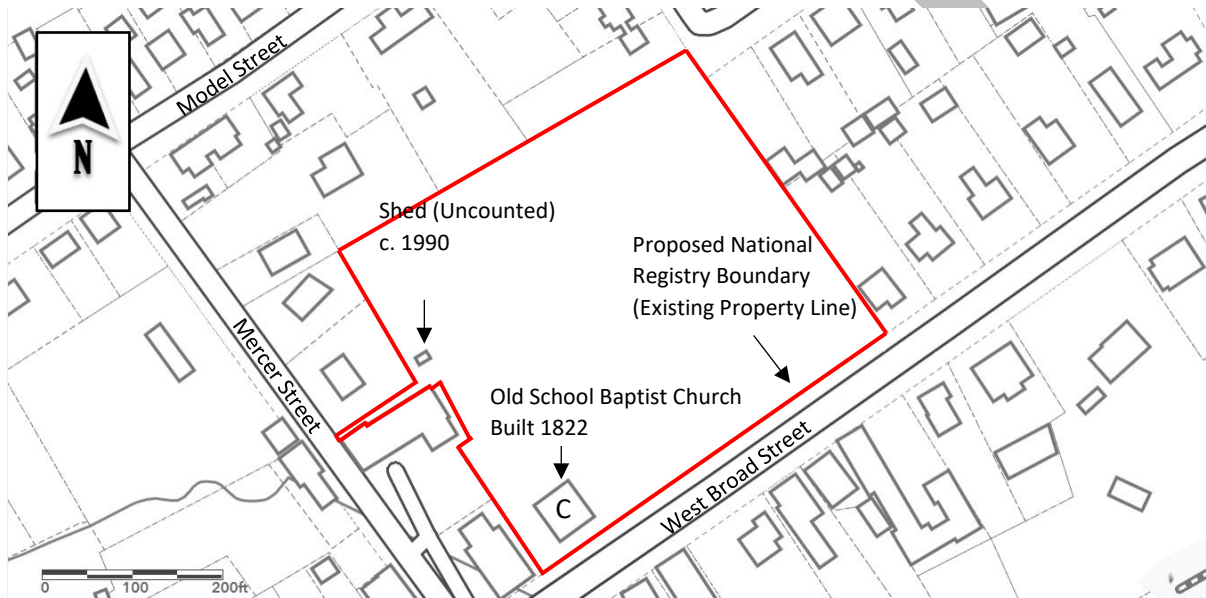
Site Plan

The Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery of Hopewell
Hopewell Borough, Mercer County, New Jersey
46 West Broad St., Nearest Corner of Mercer Street and West Broad Street
Block 14, Lot 13

Site Plan

Scale: 1" = 200'

C= contributing



Prepared by Christie Alderman
October 22, 2022

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Photo Key- Property

The Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery of Hopewell
Hopewell Borough, Mercer County, New Jersey
46 W. Broad Street, Nearest Corner of Mercer Street and West Broad Street
Block 14, Lot 13



Prepared by Christie Alderman
October 22, 2022

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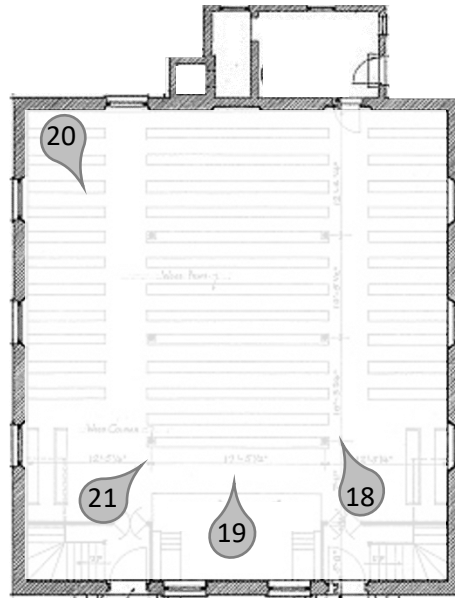
The Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery of Hopewell
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Photo Key- Church

The Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery of Hopewell
Hopewell Borough, Mercer Co., NJ
46 W. Broad St., Nearest Corner of Mercer Street and West Broad Street
Block 14, Lot 13

First Floor



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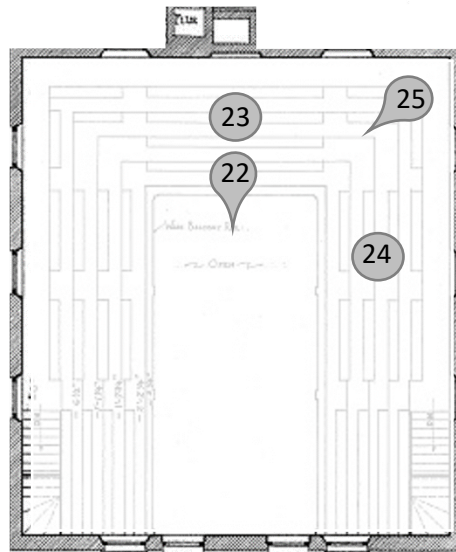
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Second Floor



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Figure 1: A map, published in 1849, of Hopewell with the Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery marked as “B. Ch.”. The “S.H.” denotes the schoolhouse, which was located within the cemetery at the time.¹ The schoolhouse was demolished in the 1820s.

This map is in the public domain.

¹ Otley, J. W., and James Keily. Map of Mercer County, New Jersey. Camden, N.J.: L. van der Veer, 1849. Map. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2004629246/>.

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Figure 2: Circa 1860 photograph of the Old School Baptist Church and southwest corner of the cemetery. The photo shows the fence, a structure of significance, which at that time extended in front of the church building.²

This image is in the public domain.

² David Blackwell. "History of Hopewell Village." *Hopewell Valley Historic Society Newsletter* (Hopewell, New Jersey), Winter 2016, Vol. XXXIV, No. 3, Page 805. Accessed January 29, 2023.

<https://www.hopewellvalleyhistory.org/uploads/1/2/5/5/125504560/hvhs-newsletter-archives-1975-2017.pdf>

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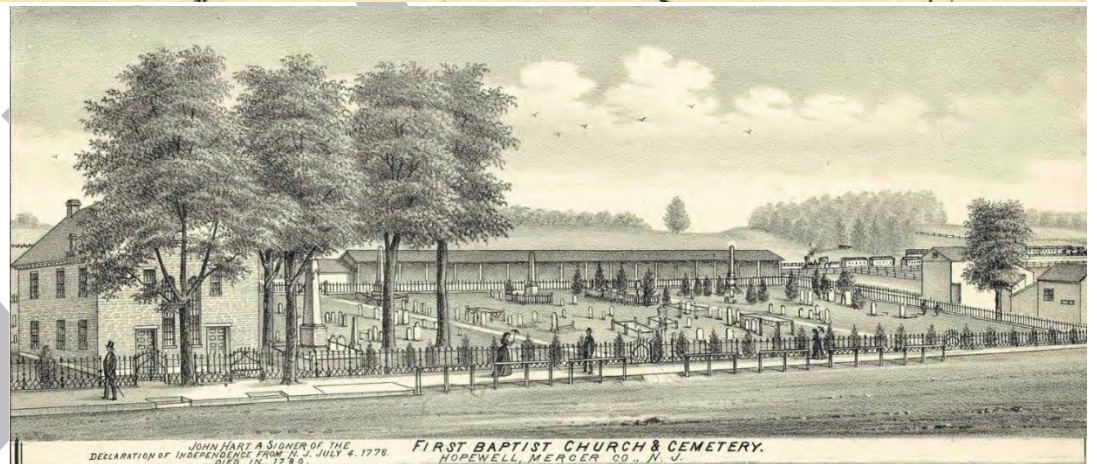
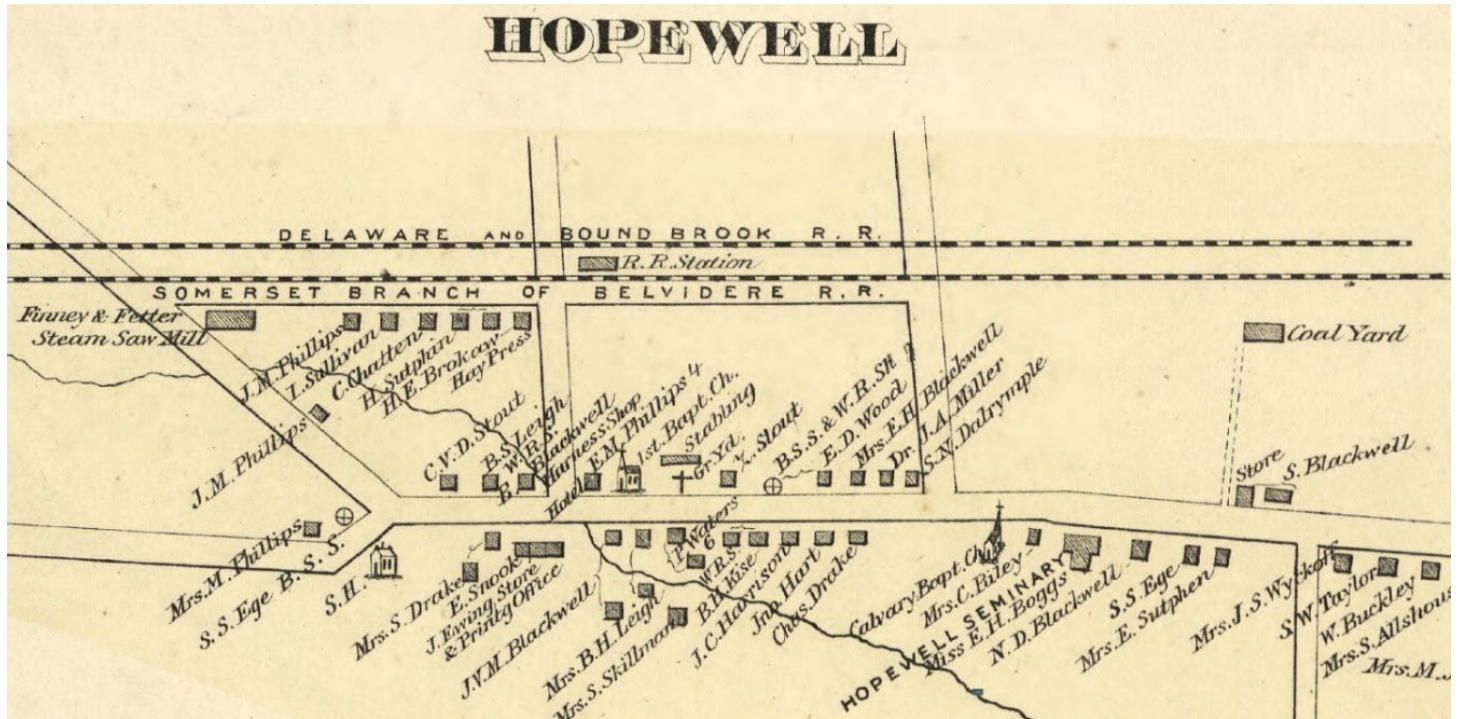


Figure 3: A map and illustration of Hopewell published in 1875.³ The map shows the Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery labeled as “1st. Bapt. Church” and “Gr. Yd.” Both the map and illustration show the long stable that was located north of the church and was later removed and allowed for the expansion of the cemetery. The illustration includes the Hart memorial, which was erected in 1865.

This resource is in the public domain.

³ Everts & Stewart, and Thomas Hunter. *Combination Atlas Map of Mercer County, New Jersey*. Philadelphia: Everts & Stewart, 1875. Map. Accessed January 30, 2023. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2010587333/>.

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*The Meeting House which John Hart built
for the Baptist Church of Hopewell N.J.*

John Hart Speaker

COPIED BY PERMISSION OF W^M BROTHERHEAD.

Figure 4: Illustration published in 1875 of the northwest and southwest sides of the church and a portion of the cemetery. This shows the “rear” of the structure before the addition of a one-story mechanical room.⁴

⁴ Cathcart, William. 1876. *The Baptists and the American Revolution*. Philadelphia, PA: S.A. George & Co. Accessed January 30, 2023. <https://reformedreader.org/history/The%20Baptists%20and%20the%20American%20Revolution,%20Catchcart,%201876.pdf>.

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Figure 5: A photograph of the church, fence, and John Hart memorial from 1876. At this time, the fence extended across the front of the church (today it meets the corners of the church building).⁵ The fence is an object of significance.

This image was made available courtesy of the Hopewell Valley Historical Society (Hopewell, NJ). Copyright permission was granted only to use this photograph for the purposes of the National and State Historic Register Nomination.

⁵ *Collection of Photos of the Old School Baptist Church.* Photographs. Folder: HwBoro. File name: Broad West-046-1876-ph-Old School Baptist Meeting Church-HVHS Cal1987 11. Hopewell Valley History Project. Accessed April 4, 2023. <https://image.hopewell-history.org/picture.php?/3964/search/3484>.

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*Hopewell Nov 10th 1904
here in place of leaving
tomorrow on 999 I will leave
on 206 the other is a way train I
if he cannot meet this train I
will wait on P.O. side
Mariane*

Hopewell. Old School Baptist Meeting House of Revolutionary Fame—Built, 1747 Re-built, 1822.

Figure 6: Photograph postcard of the Old School Baptist Church. The photo was taken some time before November 1904. The image shows the reconfigured fence, which now meets the sides of the church (instead of continuing in front of the church). A shed can be seen in the background.

*Christie Alderman Collection.
Copyright permission granted only to use this photograph for the purposes of the National and State Historic Register
Nomination.
Location of postcard: 2 Huntington Dr. Annandale, NJ 08801.*

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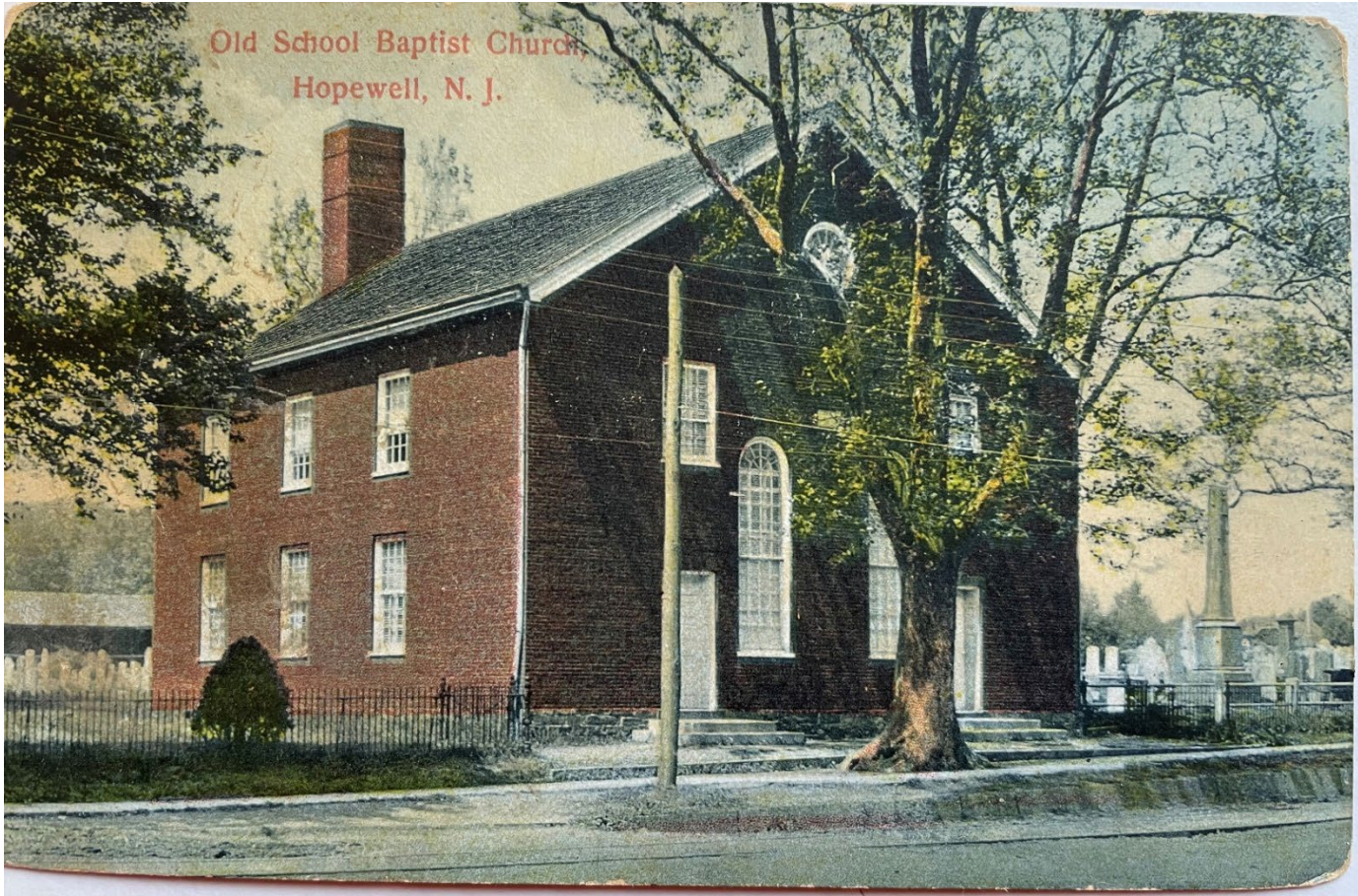


Figure 7: Photograph postcard of the Old School Baptist Church, circa 1905. The image shows the addition of power poles, gutters, and the reconfigured fence, which now meets the sides of the church (instead of continuing in front of the church). A shed can be seen in the background.

Christie Alderman Collection.

Copyright permission granted only to use this photograph for the purposes of the National and State Historic Register Nomination.

Location of postcard: 2 Huntington Dr. Annandale, NJ 08801.

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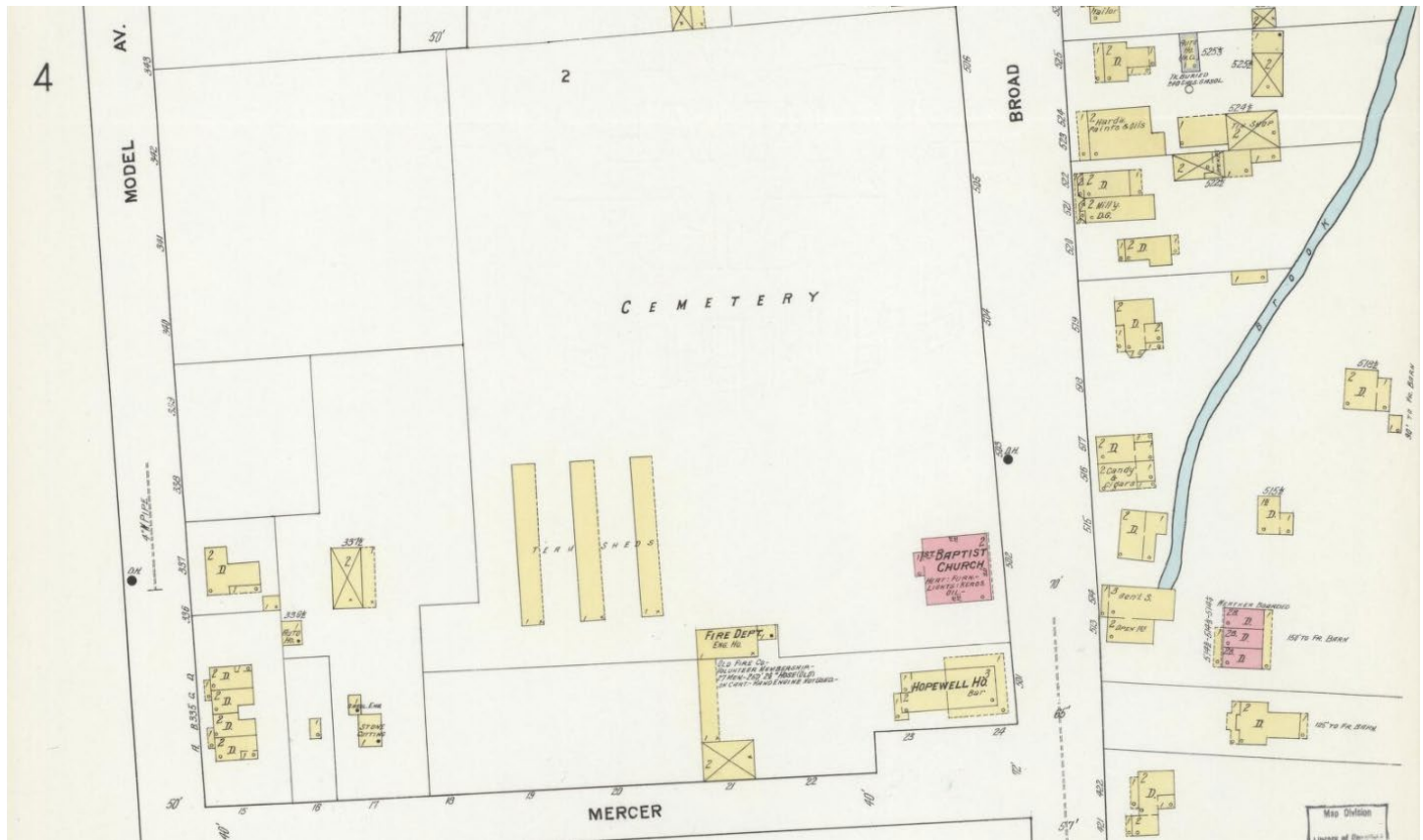


Figure 8: Illustration of the church (including the rear addition of the mechanical room) and cemetery from 1912.⁶ The long stables seen in an illustration from 1902, had either been replaced by or modified into a shorter building located in the northwest corner of the district by 1912. Two buildings of matching dimensions have been added. Collectively, they are labeled “team sheds.”

This image is in the public domain.

⁶ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Hopewell, Mercer County, New Jersey. Sanborn Map Company. Jan, 1912. Accessed January 29, 2023. https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3814hm.g3814hm_g055101912/?sp=2.

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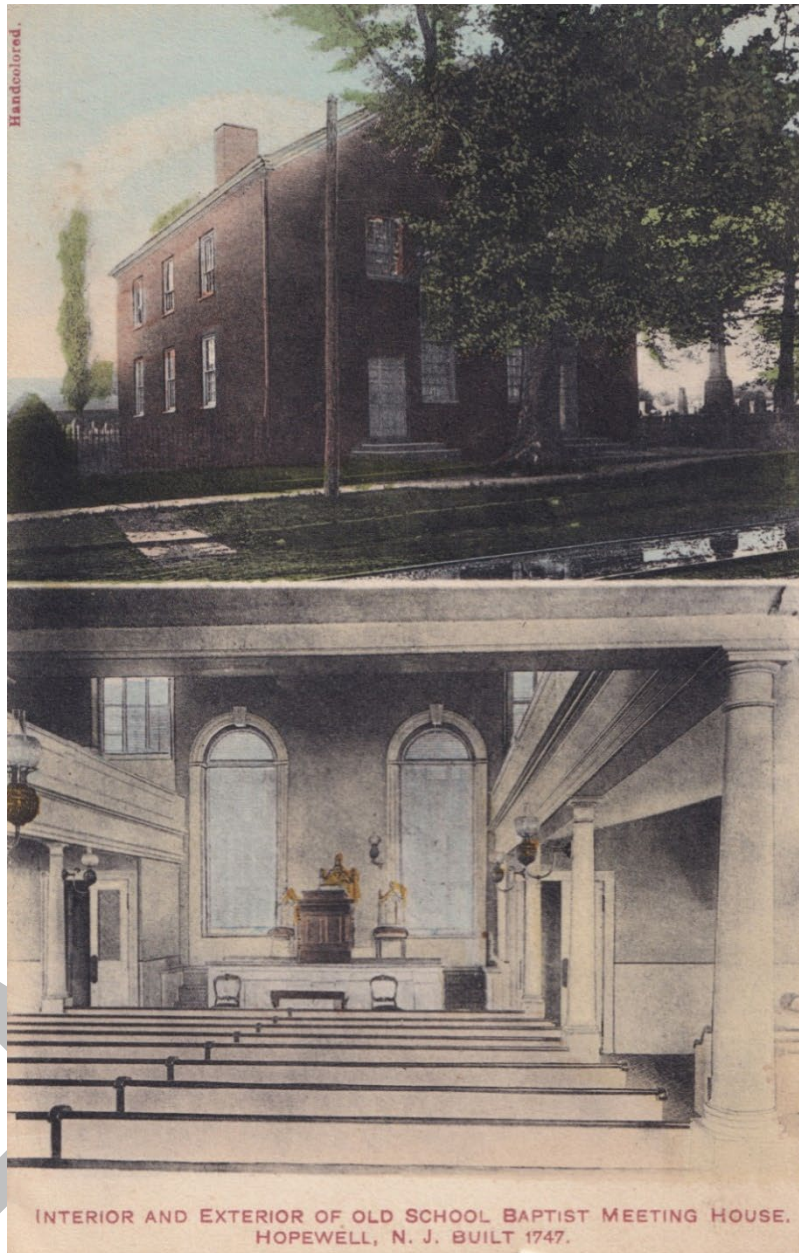


Figure 9: This photograph postcard shows the exterior of the church and includes the earliest known interior photograph of the church. The images were taken prior to when electricity was brought into the building, as oil lamps wall sconces can be seen in the image. The postcard was published in 1913 (although the images could have been taken earlier).⁷

This image is in the public domain.

⁷ Collection of Photos of the Old School Baptist Church. Photographs. Folder: HwBoro. Hopewell Valley History Project. Accessed April 4, 2023. <https://image.hopewell-history.org/picture.php?/1017/search/3484>.

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Figure 10: Insurance map which shows the church and cemetery from 1927, outside of the period of significance.⁸ Two of the long buildings seen in an earlier 1912 illustration have been demolished by this time, leaving behind only one of the structures. The remaining structure is labeled “STGE SHED.” The subsequent insurance map from 1935 shows the same structures and property lines in place.

This image is in the public domain.

⁸ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Hopewell, Mercer County, New Jersey. Sanborn Map Company. Aug, 1927. Accessed January 29, 2023. https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3814hm.g3814hm_g055101912/?sp=2.

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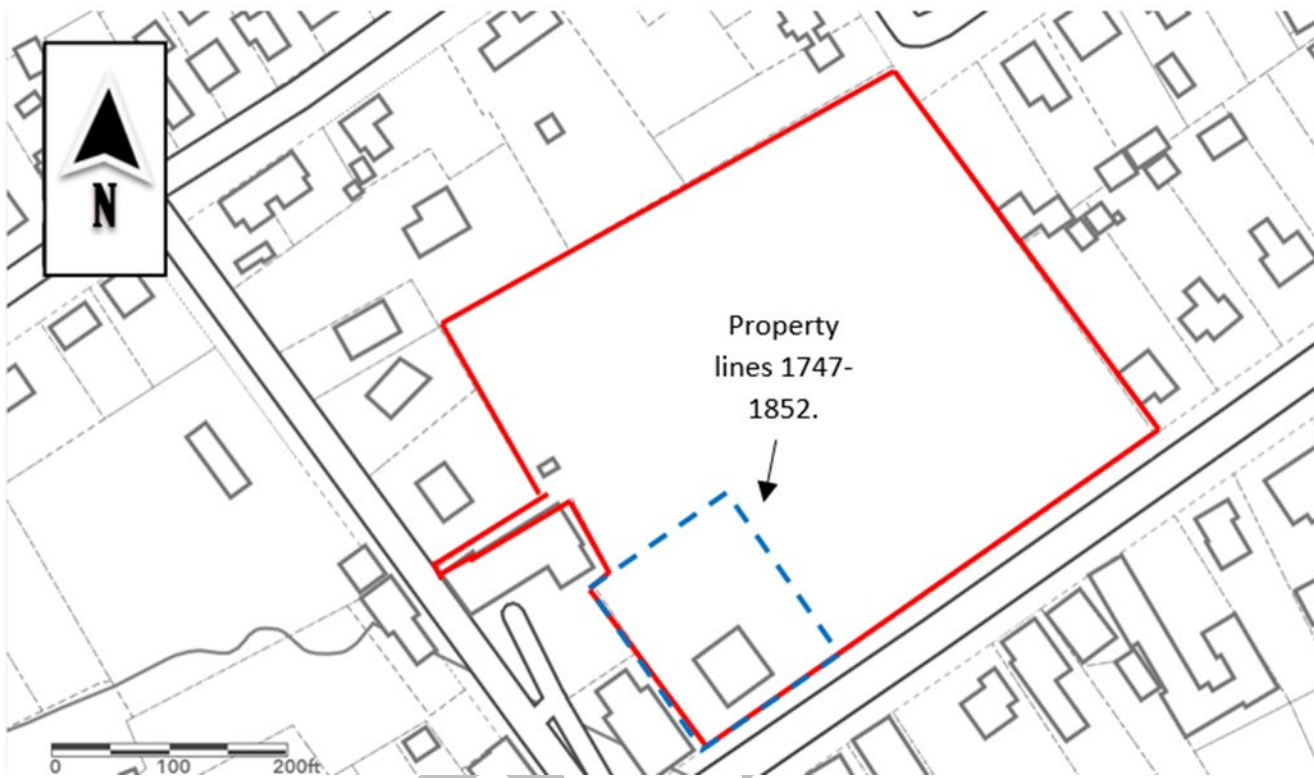


Figure 11: Sketch map (2023) depicts the Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery’s property boundary from 1747 to 1852.⁹

⁹ Linda C. Gedney, Julie B. Gill, and The New Jersey Society of Colonial Dames. 1931 (reprint of original manuscripts). The Town Records of Hopewell, NJ/ Church Records of the Old School Baptist Church of New Jersey. New York: Little & Ives. Accessed January 29, 2023. <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uva.x001174960&view=1up&seq=140&q1=baptist>.

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Figure 12: Sketch map (2023) depicts the Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery's property boundary from 1852 to 1873.¹⁰

¹⁰ Mercer County, New Jersey, Deed Book X, Page 576, Zephaniah Stout to The Trustees of the First Baptist Church, April 27, 1852. New Jersey State Archives, Trenton, NJ; Porter, "A Chronological History."

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Figure 13: Sketch map (2023) depicts the Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery's property boundary in 1873.¹¹

¹¹ Richard L. Porter. A Chronological History of the Hopewell Baptist Church and Its Original Property and A Chronological History of the Expansion of the Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery. The Hopewell Museum, 2023. Accessed July 31, 2023. <https://thehopewellmuseum.org/hopewellbaptistchurch>.

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Figure 14: Sketch map (2023) depicts the Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery’s property boundary by 1907.¹²

¹² Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Deed Book 241, Page 371, Mary Purrington to The Old School Baptist Church, 1907. Hunterdon County Archives, Flemington, NJ.

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Photo #1: Exterior. South corner of the Old School Baptist Church showing the two primary entrance doors.

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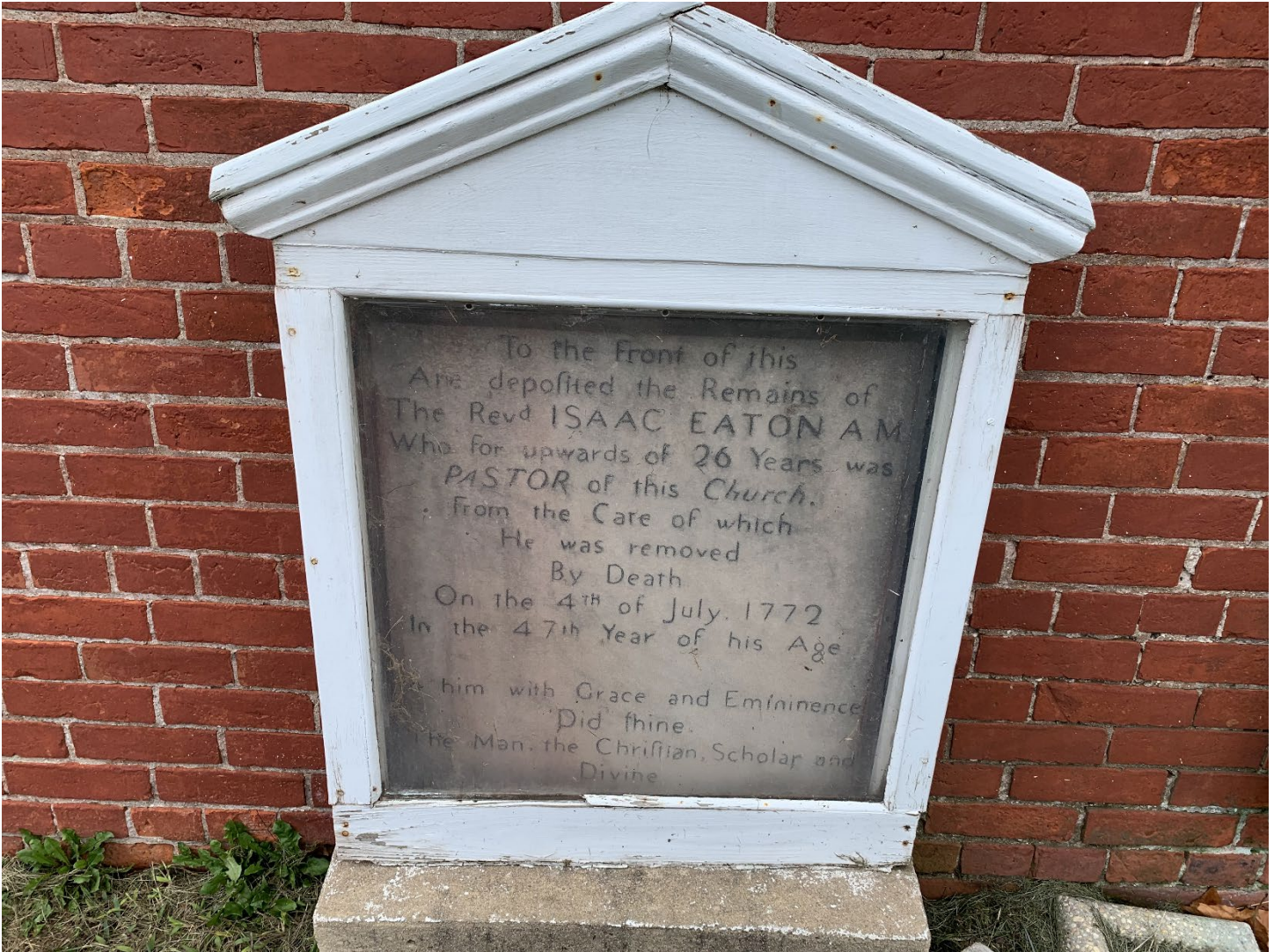


Photo #2: Exterior. East side of Old School Baptist Church, showing Rev. Isaac Eaton's memorial stone affixed to building and enshrined in wood and glass.

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Photo #3: Exterior. Northeast corner of the Old School Baptist Church.

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Photo #4: Exterior. View of the northeast and southeast walls and a portion of the historic gate.

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Photo #5: Exterior. Photo of road that crosses through the cemetery (also likely a foundation pad for sheds that previously were on the property).

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Photo #6: Exterior. Photo of uncounted storage shed.

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Photo #7: Exterior. Looking south toward the church from the road that crosses through the cemetery.

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Photo #8: Exterior. Looking northeast in cemetery from road that passes through cemetery.

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Photo #9: Exterior. Joab Houghton memorial, which is an uncounted object.

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Photo #10: Exterior. Detail of historic gate, labeled by manufacturer, which is a contributing structure.

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Photo #11: Memorial to John Hart, who was reinterred in this location, donated the land for the church in 1747, and was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. This memorial is an uncounted object.

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Photo #12: Exterior. Memorial plaque for Friday Truehart. Truehart was enslaved at the age of 13 by a reverend of the church, Rev. Oliver Hart, and was a member of the congregation.

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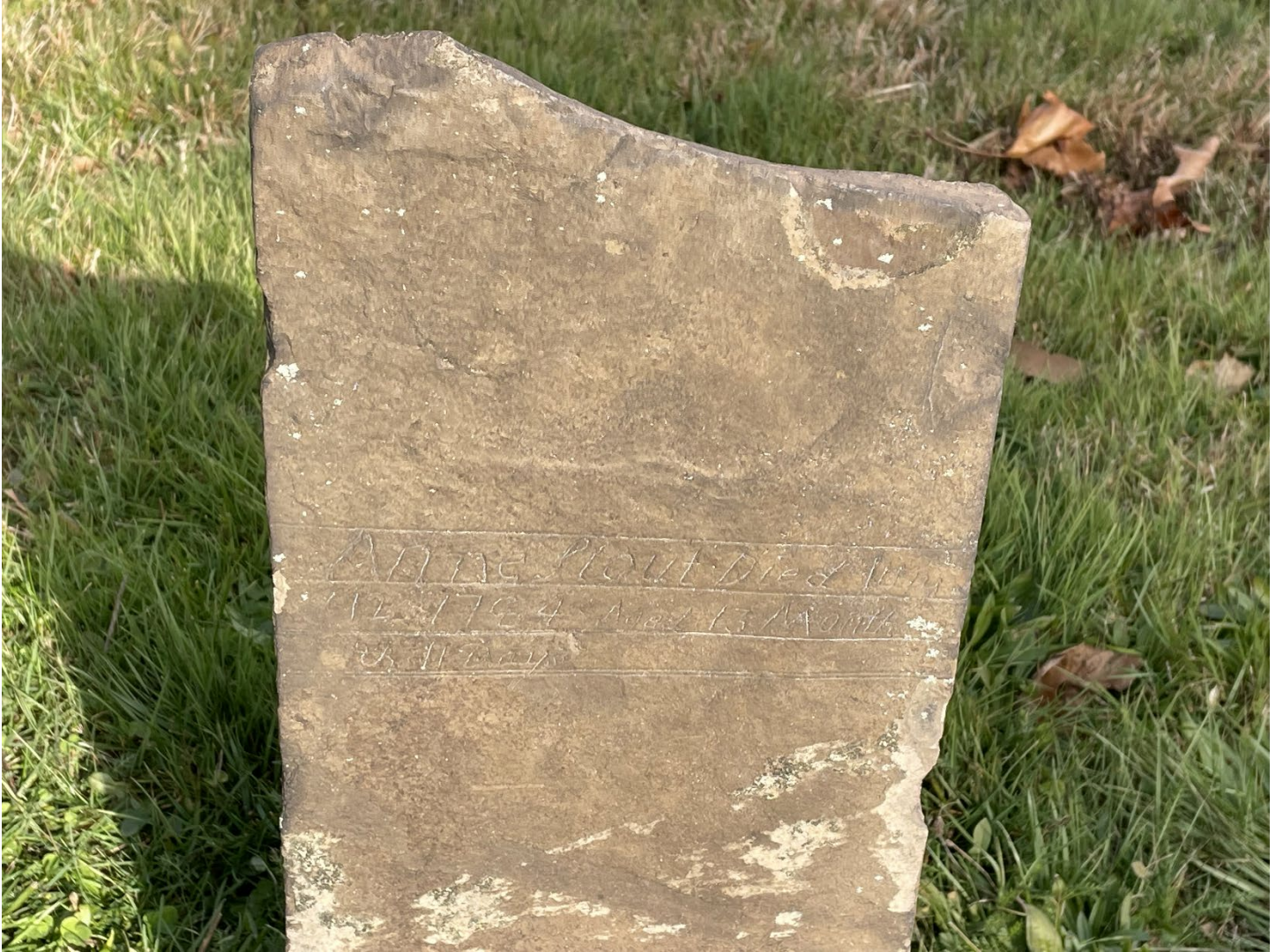


Photo #13: Exterior. Tombstone for Annie Stout (d. 1784). Example of rustic carved sandstone tombstone, likely locally inscribed.

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Photo #14: Exterior. Tombstones for John Hobbs (d. 1761) and Elizabeth Hobbs (d. 1767). These tombstones were carved and labeled by professional tombstone maker, Jonathan Hand Osbourne of Scotch Plains, NJ. These memorials are contributing objects.

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Photo #15: Exterior. Tombstone of Catherine Stout (d. 1749). This tombstone is in the style of professional tombstone carver Ebenezer Price. A later-added tombstone footer obscures the location Price would normally inscribe his work, so this cannot be confirmed. The decoration of this brown sandstone tombstone is primarily located in the tympanum, with a winged head surrounded by wings and what may be either a crown or tulip above. While there are several tombstones of similar shape and material near this tombstone, this is the oldest legible tombstone in the cemetery. This memorial is a contributing object.

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Photo #16: Exterior. Unidentifiable granite tombstones. Example of family plot with remnants of gate. There are several examples of gated family plots within the cemetery (most with the iron portions of gates now missing and only the stone posts remaining).

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Photo #17: Exterior. Bond family memorial and gated plot, which honors Amos C. Bond, his wives and children. The memorial is architectural in style, with a Greek key frieze carved in polished granite. The plot was fenced in, although only the granite fence posts remain.

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Photo #18: Interior. First floor, looking north.

DR

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Photo #19 Interior. Looking from the pulpit to balcony.

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Photo #20: Interior. First floor, looking south.

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Photo #21: Interior. First floor, looking north.

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Photo #22: Interior. Second floor, looking southeast down from the balcony to the first floor.

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Photo #23: Interior. Second floor, photo of graffiti carved into pew. Includes carved letters and "1830".

DR

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Photo #24: Interior. Second floor, photo of graffiti carved into pew. Includes carved letters and "1823".

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Photo #25: Interior. Second floor, photo looking south.

DR