

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC SOUTHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH & CEMETERY

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
2nd Street Pike & Maple Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

CITY, TOWN
Southampton

VICINITY OF

8th

STATE
Pennsylvania

CODE
42

COUNTY
Bucks

CODE
017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Southampton Baptist Corporation

STREET & NUMBER
2nd Street Pike

CITY, TOWN
Southampton

VICINITY OF

STATE
Pennsylvania 18966

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Bucks County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Doylestown

STATE
Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE
November, 1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN
Harrisburg

STATE
Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original Southampton Baptist Church was erected in 1731. This was replaced in 1772 by a stone meetinghouse which was significantly enlarged in 1814. The present building's appearance is that of the 1814 renovations. The church is a large rectangular, two story, stuccoed stone building, with a steep pitched gable roof. A moulded cornice with returns highlight the asphalt shingle roof. Two small brick chimneys are located at the rear gable on each side of the roof ridge. A single chimney is located on the north slope of the front gable. Three doorways are also located in this east gable. Three 6 pane square windows are located in the second story above the doorways. These windows as well as the other second story windows have a semi-circular panel located immediately above the windows. The side elevations are six bays long with six over six light windows. The west gable end behind the pulpit has two 6 over 9 light windows. The only significant change to the exterior was the addition of a flat roof Victorian porch to the east gable. The porch is supported by four columns and decorated with carved brackets.

The interior of the church has all of its original 1814 appointments with the exception of the high pulpit which was placed in 1860 by the existing panelled altar. There are four rows of boxed pews running the length of the church with single rows flanking the pulpit area. All pews have doors with horizontal and vertical reeded panels. A balcony runs along each side of the building.

A small cemetery is located on the south and west sides of the church and is surrounded by a three foot high stone wall.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1772-1814

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Southampton Baptist Church is the oldest Baptist Church in Bucks County. The present building dates from 1814 and is an excellent example of the meetinghouse style of ecclesiastical architecture. Both the exterior and interior of the church are well preserved. The original interior appointments with their reeded and panelled woodwork are particularly noteworthy.

Southampton Baptist Church was fortunate in having a man of learning and vision, Reverend Joshua Potts, for its pastor during many years in the 18th century until his death in 1761. Mr. Potts taught a Latin grammar school in a stone building (since demolished) in the churchyard. Another schoolmaster was Reverend Isaac Eaton. The school, one of the earliest in Bucks County, gave a classical education to several young men who later became influential in the Baptist ministry and governmental affairs. With the school at Hopewell Baptist Church in New Jersey, Southampton's Latin School may be said to have been a forerunner of Brown University in Rhode Island.

Another important contribution made by Mr. Potts and his deacon, Joseph Hart, was the founding of Union Library Company of Hatboro, the third oldest library in Pennsylvania, dating from 1755 and still a thriving institution today. With two other men, Potts and Hart called a founding meeting in the summer of 1755, when monies were subscribed to order the library's first books from London. A number of Southampton Baptist Church members are listed on the first membership roll of Union Library.

When the Southampton Baptist Church charter was issued by the General Assembly of Pennsylvania on April 6, 1791, the Church had already marked one hundred years as a congregation. The oldest Baptist Church in Bucks County, it met for worship in the homes of members from 1691 until 1730 when a member, John Morris, gave land for a meetinghouse which was erected in 1731. The Church was rebuilt in 1772 and enlarged to its present form in 1814. Since then, the only modernization has been an electric reading lamp at the pulpit. The galleries and the original panel-door pews remain. The high pulpit was removed about 1860 and the present pulpit installed.

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SOUTHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH & CEMETERY - Bucks County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Significance: continued

The Southampton Baptist Church cemetery, which adjoins the Church, is notable as the resting place of 24 Revolutionary War soldiers, as well as six veterans of the French and Indian Wars. Forebearers of most of the leading families of Bucks County are also interred in this quiet ground.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Davis, W.H.H. History of Bucks County. Doylestown, 1876.
- Davis, W.H.H. History of the Southampton Baptist Church. Doylestown, Bucks County Historical Society, 1884.
- Robinson, Ruth Willard. Four Community Subscription Libraries in Colonial Pennsylvania: Darby, Hatboro, Lancaster and Newtown, 1743-1790. Doctorial Dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 1952.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	496930	4447940
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ruth R. Ross, Ph.D. / William K. Watson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Trustee, Southampton Baptist Corp./PHMC

DATE

February, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 6465/P. O. Box 1026

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

Lawrenceville/Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
 Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

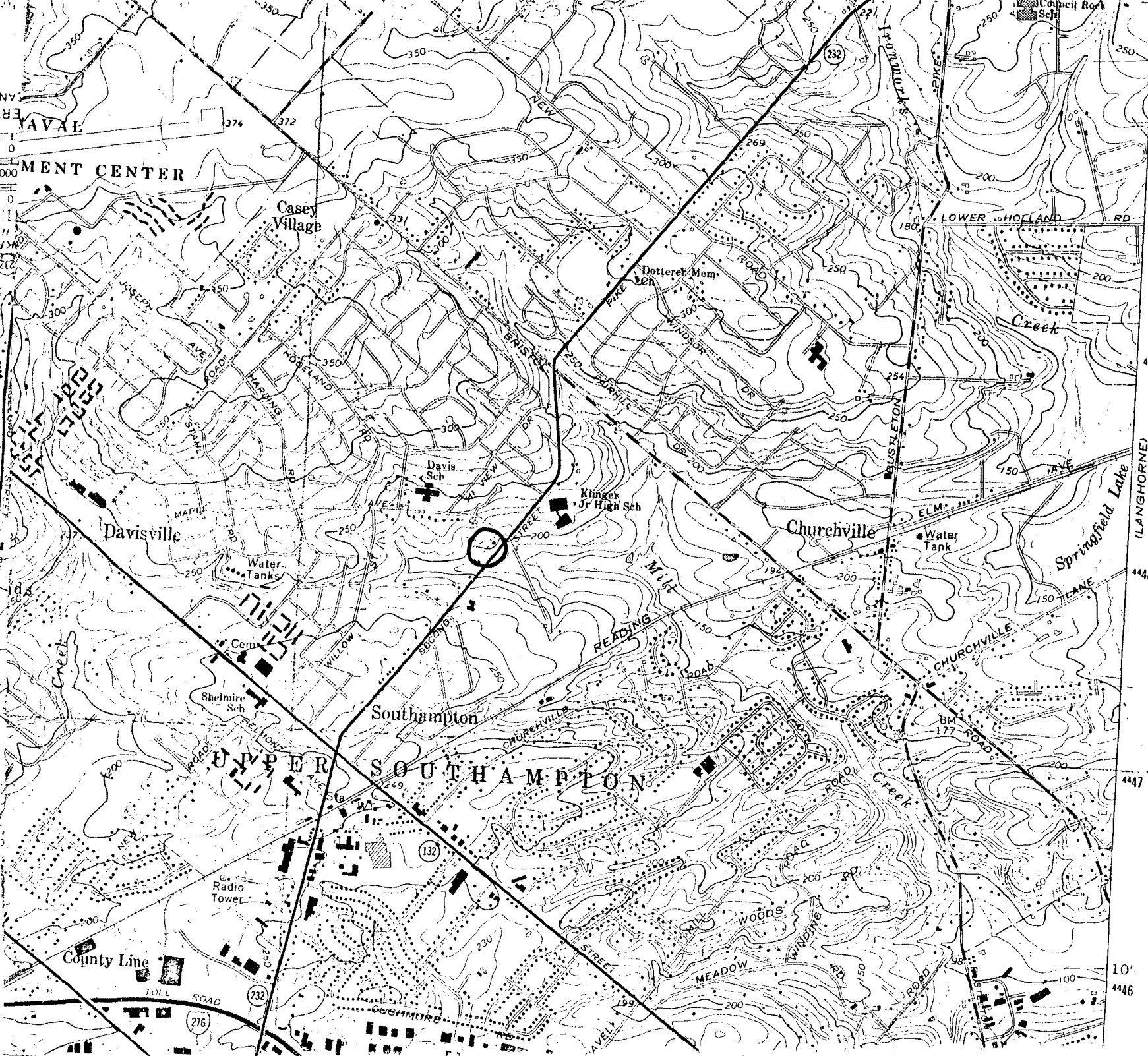
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



12 30"

4450

4449

(LANGHORNE)
6064 III NW

4448

4447

10'

4446

SOUTHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH AND
CEMETERY --- Bucks County

JUNE 18 496 930 4447 940

18
496 930