

Presbytery of Morris and Orange

431. FIRST CHURCH, 1755--. Bloomfield Avenue, Parsippany, Morris County.

This church was organized in the same year that the First Church at Whippany (entry 424) divided, and subsequently abandoned. The first meeting house was erected in 1755, on a site deeded to the Whippany Church by Mr. George Bowlby in 1745. The congregation continued to worship here until 1773, when they erected a second house of worship on the original site. In March 1828, the church was legally incorporated as the Second Presbyterian Church of Hanover. The congregation was hoping to have a new church, and it was agreed that if \$7,000 could be pledged before May of the same year, the work would commence. The committee was successful, a site was purchased, and the building was started. This was the erection of the present church which was dedicated October 8, 1829.

In 1857-58, dissension arose over the choice of a pastor which resulted in the withdrawal of a portion of the members who formed the First Presbyterian Church of Parsippany. Repairs were made to the church in 1859, and the ground was improved. In 1870, the First Church of Parsippany reunited with the Second Church of Hanover. A chapel was built in 1891, which is used to conduct Sunday School classes. In 1911, the name was changed from the Second Presbyterian Congregation in Hanover to the Parsippany Presbyterian Church.

Land for the first manse was purchased and a house completed in 1774. The second manse located on Bloomfield Avenue was purchased in 1834. The present manse was built in 1874, on land donated by Col. John Condit Smith, adjoining the church.

There is no doubt that this grand old church embodies the strength and character of those who built it. It is a strong rectangular building, Colonial in all its appointments, except, perhaps, the use of Gothic arched cathedral windows. The square tower rises to a height of about 45 feet. There is an octagonal belfry with louver windows painted green. Above this is an ornamental spire.

Rev. Jacob Gree,ⁿ a graduate of Yale College, served this church from 1755 to 1768. The present pastor is Rev. A. Philip Tuttle, Bloomfield Avenue.

Ball, (Pale,) Annette C., History of the Parsippany New Jersey Presbyterian Church. Parsippany, First Presbyterian Church, 1928. 16 pp.

Parker, Charles C., Historical Sermons. Banner Steam Print, 1888. 22 pp.

Session Records, 1834-- , 3 vols., in custody of Mr. Herbert Tunis, Clerk, Parsippany Blvd. Trustee Records, 1773-- , 3 vols., in custody of Mr. Arthur B. Paulmier, Secretary, Beverwyck Road, Troy Hills.

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Record of Baptisms, Members, Marriages, and Deaths, 1850--, 1 vol., in custody of the pastor. Sunday School Records, 1890--; 11 vols., in custody of Miss Esther Howell, Secretary, Beverwyck Road, Troy Hills. Women's Missionary Society Records, 1816--, 7 vols., in custody of Mrs. F. O. Smith, Secretary, Beverwyck Road, Troy Hills. Ladies' Aid Society Records, 1909--, 3 vols., in custody of Mrs. James Eyster, Secretary, Beverwyck Road, Troy Hills. Young People's Christian Endeavor Society Records, 1937--, 1 vol., in custody of Mr. Walter Loosey, Clerk, Bloomfield Avenue. Financial Records, 1936--, 1 vol., in custody of Mr. Stephen Condit, Treasurer, Beverwyck Road, Troy Hills.

Record of incorporations and deeds: Morris County Clerk's Office, Religious Societies, vol. A, p. 50; vol. B, p. 280; Deeds, vol. V 2, p. 555; vol. G 3, p. 78; vol. W 8, p. 437; vol. C 21, p. 509; vol. R 21, p. 544.

432. FIRST CHURCH, 1758--. Church and Academy Streets, Rockaway, Morris County.

This church was organized by persons from Danville, Berkshire Valley, Dover, Mt. Freedom, Livingston and other surrounding communities who were zealous and wished to establish and keep a place of worship. The first church, consisting of a frame and roof, was erected in 1759, as a result of subscriptions raised by those willing to "oblige themselves" and donate \$188.00, and who supplemented by a loan of one hundred pounds from Col. Jacob Ford of Morristown. The enthusiasm to use this place of worship was so great that people were known to travel far to participate in divine worship even before the floor was laid, sitting on cross beams, logs, and other improvised seats. The church, only partly enclosed, remained in this condition for about six years.

In 1768, it was improved. Pews were added and the meeting house was altered. Sixty years later a pulpit and seats were secured and a stove was allowed "that if it may be found pernicious that then by a complaint it may be removed". The church was incorporated on March 22, 1787. More repairs to the church were made in 1821 and 1830; a fund was raised for further repairs, but it was diverted to the fund for a new church.

Upon the death of General Windsor, one of the enthusiastic members of the congregation, his will bequeathed to the church, the farm he had bought from Messrs. Thomas and Richard Penn in 1756. This was adjoining the church property and was sold in part to obtain money for the present brick building which was erected and dedicated in 1832. The old church was abandoned.

In 1867, the new church was renovated throughout, after which the church was rededicated on March 14, 1868. The wing now used as Sunday School rooms was completed in 1880. On the occasion of the