

Dutch Reformed Church  
Millstone, Somerset County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Dutch Reformed Church  
Millstone, Somerset County, New Jersey

Owner: Consistory of Dutch Reformed Church

Date of Erection: 1828

Architect:

Builder: Joachim G. Quick

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two with steeple

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - frame construction, shingles and siding

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

The first religious organization of Millstone was organized by the Presbyterians who erected a house of worship in 1760; this was shared by the Dutch. Difficulties arose and on August 11, 1766 the Dutch organized a congregation under the name of New Millstone. The land for the church was given by John Van Doren. John Smock owned the land where the church now stands and he exchanged his lot for that given by Van Doren, so that the first deed of the church property is from John Smock for eight and one-half

tenth of an acre valued at ten pounds. It was enlarged by later purchases until now there is little more than an acre in the property.

The first church was completed in 1768. During the Revolution it was greatly damaged by troops. It was repaired and stood until succeeded by the present church. The cornerstone was laid in June, 1828. The new church was 70 x 55. The contracted price was five thousand dollars with extras for three hundred and seventeen dollars.

The first preacher came in 1774. Before that time services were held by pastors from three of the neighboring congregations. The first pastor was the Reverend Christian Frederick Foreing. In a letter to the church, he refers to the fact that the Dutch language had almost died out and that he would preach in English. He was an ardent patriot; forced to flee from his home he died in 1779, exposure was one of the chief causes. His remains lie under the pulpit of the church.

The church was united for a time with Meshanic and later with Six-Mile-Run. In 1855 the congregation divided and a church was organized on the east side of the river known as the church of East Millstone.

#### Bibliography:

Messler, A. Forty Years at Raritan - Eight Memorial Sermons with Notes for a History of the Reformed Dutch Churches in Somerset County, New Jersey New York, A. Lloyd, 1873

Snell, J. P. History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey Philadelphia, Everts and Peck, 1821

Natlee E. Ruck  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer

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A D D E N D U M

The following quoted account of the erection of this church is supplied as being most authentic, having been written by the pastor and published 1866.

During the first eighteen years of his ministry here, he (Mr. Zabriskie) preached in the old church, reminding them still of early times, of poverty and strife and victory, in freedom's conflict. But it had long been felt that this church was too small for the growing congregation, and repeated efforts had been made to remedy the evil. The building had received a slight repairing during the Revolution, and a more considerable one in 1783, when money had been solicited abroad. Again in 1800, it was very thoroughly renovated, and the pews rearranged and sold anew to pay expenses. In 1805, they agitated the matter of putting a gallery in the church, to increase the accommodation, but failed of success; and again in 1816, \$800 were subscribed for this object, but without result. The old building continued to be occupied till April 22d, 1828, the subject of rebuilding having been agitated, (says Dominie Zabriskie, in a certain paper,) for twenty-five years, without being able to agree on the best course. But on May 26th, 1827, a memorial was presented to the Consistory, signed by eighty persons, respectfully requesting the Consistory to call a meeting of the congregation, to devise means for enlarging or rebuilding the church. Frequent meetings were held, and at last the Consistory determined that in conformity with the wishes of a large portion of the congregation, a new church should be erected. \$1,000 were allowed to the pew-holders in the old church, to be property credited between them, to go toward the purchase of pews in the new church, and John Sutphen, Farrington, Barcaloo, and Abraham Beekman were appointed a Committee, to appraise the value of the old pews. The edifice was to be built after the model of the new church at Six Mile Run.

They had built their second edifice in the same year that our church had been organized, (1766) and now a year or two before, and probably stimulating this congregation to the work, they had built the edifice which they now use. Their second building, and our first, both stood for just sixty years, and the present buildings of both congregations are identical in size, being 70 x 55 feet.

The building committee consisted of Stephen Garretson, Dan. H. Disborough, and Ab. Beekman, subject to the direction of the Consistory. They contracted with Joachim G. Quick for \$5,000, including the old church material. Extra expenses accrued, amounting to \$317. The corner stone was laid on June 8th, 1828, and an address delivered by the Pastor from Gen. xxciii: 22. "And this stone which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house; and of all that Thou shalt give me, I will surely give the tenth unto Thee,"-- important and suggestive words. Prayer was also offered for God's blessing on the undertaking. A committee was then appointed, consisting of James B. Elmendorf, Ab. Staats, and John Sutphen, to appraise the pews, the aggregate sum to amount to \$6,500. The church was dedicated on Christmas Sabbath, 1828, the pastor preaching from Ex. xx: 24, "An altar of earth thou shalt make unto Me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen; in all places where I record My name, I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee." The following Thursday the pews were sold, and \$7689 were realized, leaving a considerable surplus in the hands of Consistory.

Reference:

Corwin, E.T., pastor, Historical Discourse on occasion of the Centennial Anniversary of the Reformed Dutch Church of Millstone. New York: J. J. Reed, Printer, 43 Center Street. 1866. Pages 76-78

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