

## **Inventory to Places of Worship and Cemeteries of Township of Fairfield (formerly Caldwell Township until 1963) and Surrounding Area, 1700s - present**

### **Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Inventory to Places of Worship and Cemeteries of Township of Fairfield (formerly Caldwell Township until 1963) and Surrounding Area, 1700s - present

**Dates:** 1700s to present

**Quantity:** 1 linear ft. (3 manuscript boxes)

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Fairfield Free Public Library. Local History Archive.

### **History of the Places of Worship and Cemeteries of Township of Fairfield**

#### **Fairfield Dutch Reformed Church**

Fairfield Dutch Reformed Church is a historic church on Fairfield Road in Fairfield Township, Essex County, New Jersey, United States. The congregation was established in 1720 by Dutch settlers. Receiving recognition from the Classis of Amsterdam, it became the twelfth congregation of the Reformed Church in America in the state of New Jersey. The building dates to 1804 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

The first state school building in Fairfield belonged to the Fairfield Reformed Church. During the first 85 years, the congregation worshipped at the present corner of Hollywood Ave. and Fairfield Rd. Its first building, a structure of log, mud, and stone was destroyed by fire in 1744. A second octagonal building was used until 1805. At the turn of the century, it was decided to erect a new church building 1/2 mile north of the old one. Made of brownstone from a Little Falls quarry, the new structure was constructed in 1804. Several decades later a tall white steeple and a balcony were added. Today the congregation continues to worship in the same historic building and the tall white steeple remains physically prominent in the community.

#### **St. Thomas More Catholic Church**

St. Thomas More Parish had its official beginnings on December 3, 1962, when Reverend Patrick F. Joyce, pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Caldwell, NJ, was assigned the task of initiating a parish for the Catholic families of Fairfield due to the increasing number of Catholic families in the Fairfield area and the great distances to the nearest Catholic churches. The masses were first held at Fairfield Elementary School. The parish acquired its first building on 144 Hollywood Avenue to convert a former private home into a rectory with a chapel occupying part of the basement. Construction on the new church, school, and hall began in March of 1964 and the church was opened for its first mass on Easter Sunday, 1965.

#### **United Methodist Church**

Full history in *165 Years of Methodism in Fairfield* by Barbara Weinbrecht (Box 2/Folder 5)

#### **Van Ness Burial Ground**

“Old Sindle Farm, River Road, Fairfield” (Carol Personette Comfort)

Dozen rough stones without marks – 1800s

## **Vanderhoof Burial Ground**

Private burial ground near the Fairfield Reformed Church (1904 inscription report) 1820s-1860s

### **Subjects**

Fairfield Dutch Reformed Church  
St. Thomas More Catholic Church  
United Methodist Church

Hillside Cemetery  
Van Ness Burial Ground  
Vanderhoof Burial Ground

### **Detailed Description of the Records/Container List**

#### **Box 1**

Box Folder

- |   |   |                                                                                          |
|---|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | <b>Fairfield Dutch Reformed Church Binder of Historical Documents in Chronical Order</b> |
|---|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
- Directory and Annual Statement September 1929
  - Directory and Annual Homecoming Souvenir September 20, 1931
  - Program Anniversary Sunday September 20, 1931
  - Program Anniversary Sunday September 25, 1932 (212<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) (2 copies)
  - 213<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program 1933
  - 220<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program Sunday, September 25, 1940
  - 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program 1945
  - Fairfield Church Messenger 1946
  - Fairfield Reformed Church May 3, 1953
  - Historical Facts Concerning The Old Fairfield Reformed Church Building 1804-1954 (1954)
  - Anniversary of the Fairfield Reformed Church October 24, 1954, 150 years of building erection (4 copies)
  - Program for October 1970 (250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
  - Fairfield Reformed Church 1720-1970 (2 Copies)
  - Ceremonies on Designation of the Fairfield Reformed Church as a State and National Historical Site Sunday, October 19, 1975 (4 copies)
  - The Fairfield Dutch Reformed Church an Historical and Architectural Description by Jacquelin Gioiso and Joseph Esposito October 19, 1975 (5 copies)
  - Fairfield Reformed Church Pictorial Directory 1980
  - Fairfield Reformed Church September 18, 1988
  - Installation Service of Reverend Mark Heijerman August 18, 1991
  - Memory Room Dedication October 13, 1996 (2 copies)

- Service of Worship Ordaining Warren Seibert July 11, 1999

Fairfield Reformed Church Bicentennial Committee Square Tile  
Fairfield Reformed Church Designated a National Historic Site October 19, 1975  
Circular Tile

1 2 **Fairfield Dutch Reformed Church Newspaper Clippings 1960s-2000s**

A Landmark Disappears The Chronicle. October 19, 1983.  
Life Goes On... Minus Landmark. The Chronicle. October 26, 1983  
Steeple People. Star Ledger. June 2 1991  
Old Church Erecting Modern Education Building. The Herald News. August 30, 1972  
Fairfield Church National Landmark. The Herald-News. October 24, 1975

1 3 **Fairfield Dutch Reformed Church Veterans**

- List of Fairfield Dutch Reformed Church Veterans buried
- Lt. Joseph Condit Baldwin biography and information compiled by Glen Pierce

1 4 **Fairfield Dutch Reformed Church Documents and Personal Items related to the church [*Gift of Aaron and Marie Combee Family*]**

Clippings, programs, memorial cards, photographs, directories

**Box 2**

Box Folder

2 1 **St Thomas More Church Dedication Book 1965 (2 copies)**

2 2 **St Thomas More Bulletins 1997-2003**

2 3 **St Thomas More Construction Material**

- Church of St. Thomas More pamphlet including plans and information on contribution to the construction of the new church, school building, and all purpose room.
- 5 original photographs of construction dated 1964

2 4 **St Thomas More Newspaper Clippings 1960s-2000s**

**St Thomas More Programs and Pamphlets presented by the St. Thomas More Altar Rosary Society**

- Card Party and Fashion Show “Breath O’ Spring” program, 1<sup>st</sup>, April 17, 1964 (2)
- Card Party and Fashion Show “Lovely Lady” program May 14, 1965 (2 copies) (2)
- Card Party and Fashion Show “Autumn Promenade” program November 19, 1965
- Card Party and Fashion Show “Around the World” program April 14, 1967
- Card Party and Fashion Show “On the Town” program February 24, 1969
- Bridge and Fashion Show “Springtime Fantasy,” 8<sup>th</sup> Annual, April 26, 1971
- Card Party and Fashion Show “Suddenly Spring” program April 18, 1972
- Dinner Fashion Show “Spring Fling” program April 3, 1973
- Dinner Fashion Show “Hint of Spring” program April 25, 1974
- Dinner Fashion Show “A Toast to Spring” program April 24, 1975
- Dinner Fashion Show “Parade of Fashion” program April 29, 1976
- Dinner Fashion Show “Shower of Fashion” program April 28, 1977
- Dinner Fashion Show “Peek at Spring Fashions” program April 27, 1978
- Dinner Fashion Show “Spring Fever” program April 24, 1978
- Dinner Fashion Show “Fashions in Bloom” program April 17, 1980
- Dinner Fashion Show “Fashions Ablaze” program April 30, 1981
- Dinner Fashion Show “Great Looks in Fashion” November 1, 1983
- Dinner Fashion Show “Swing Into Spring” program April 27, 1982
- Dinner Fashion Show “Dream Fantasy” program November 10, 1983
- Dinner Fashion Show “Come Rain, Come Shine” program November 8, 1984
- Dinner Fashion Show “Memories” program November 12, 1985
- Dinner Fashion Show “Happy Holidays” program November 18, 1986
- Dinner Fashion Show “The Best of Everything” program October 20, 1987
- Dinner Fashion Show “Hats Off to Fashion” program October 13, 1988
- Dinner Fashion Show “Baskets of Fashion” program November 14, 1989
- Dinner Fashion Show “Celebrate Life with Fashion” program October 29, 1991
- Dinner Fashion Show “A Walk Through Fashion Land” program October 20, 1992
- Dinner Fashion Show “Put a Little Love in Your Heart” program October 20, 1994
- Dinner Fashion Show “Dancing in the Moonlight” program October 24, 1996
- Tricky Tray & Dinner “A Magical Journey Thru the Millennium” October 5, 2000

**Box 3**

Box Folder

3 1 **Fairfield Dutch Reformed Church Cemetery Information**

**Deed Blue Print:** Aaron Kierstead to the Deacons and Elders of the Reformed Dutch Church Fairfield Dated Nov. 7, 1801 for grave yard lot contained 1 acre strict measure.

Map of Fairfield Citizen's Burying Ground September 1885 (Copy)

Map of Cemetery Laid out for Cornelius D. Van Ness 1871 (Copy)

Survey for Fairfield Reformed Church January 9, 1961 (Copy)  
Block 65 – Lot 4

Inscriptions Religious, Literary and Familial Surviving on the Tombstones in the graveyard of the Fairfield Dutch Reformed Church by Philip Epifanio 2017

*Early Cemetery Inscriptions and Early Pastors (Gansegat Reformed Dutch Church) Fairfield Essex County New Jersey*, compiled by Carol Personette Comfort

This collection of early inscription records of the Fairfield Reformed Church Cemetery includes inscriptions from unpublished reports dated 1895 and 1904 as well as other sources. The interments are conveniently listed in alphabetical order by last name. In addition to vital records there are human interest items, some relevant wills and census information. There are deaths caused by a barn fire, a couple killed in a carriage accident and a pastor thrown from his horse. Many early records are said to have been lost in fires. To provide some additional history of the church a record of the pastor up to 1902 is included. Personal data on these gentlemen includes a pastor who was active in the Revolutionary War and was once a prisoner of war at the Old Sugar House in New York. Also included is information about two men who served in the War of 1812 and twenty men who served in the Civil War some of whom were interred after 1904. The Fairfield Reformed Church, Fairfield, Essex County, New Jersey is listed in the New Jersey Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. (NR Ref. #75001134) Fairfield was early known as Gansegat and Horseneck; then, Caldwell Township in 1798 and renamed as Fairfield Township in 1964.

3 2 **Hillside Cemetery CA 1788 – 1997 (58 Horseneck Road, Fairfield, NJ 07004)**

Booklet of Hillside cemetery burials compiled by Glen Pierce through a list compiled by Adelia Collerd.

Newspaper articles related to cemetery

- 3 3 **Transcription from *A Puritan Heritage: The First Presbyterian Church in Horse-Neck* (Caldwell, N.J.) 1955**  
Transcription of marriages, baptisms, and old burying ground
- 3 4 **Clinton Cemetery Irvington, New Jersey, 1842-1971: history, register of lots, inscriptions**  
Published by Irvington Environmental conservation and improvement commission.
- 2 5 **United Methodist Church**
- *165 Years of Methodism in Fairfield* by Barbara Weinbrecht
  - Newspaper clippings