



The
Somerset
Churchscape

a photographic inventory
of the eighteenth & nineteenth century
churches of Somerset County, New Jersey

Frank L. Greenagel



The congregation dates to 1758 as an outpost of the Reformed church in Raritan (Somerville). This delightful building is clearly in a tradition called Richardson Romanesque; it was erected in 1890 or 1897 (depending on which source you choose to accept), and is the third Reformed church on the site. This is an exceptional combination of shingle and some carpenter Gothic elements, as well as the oversized arches and massed windows that were Henry Hobson Richardson's hallmark (although he did not design this building, nor any other church in the state, as far as I know). The shingle style was regarded as very *upscale*, mostly used for large and expensive homes. Appropriate, therefore, for this area of the county after extension of the railroad made it possible for grandees of New York to build large manors here and in Bernardsville.

The congregation disbanded in 1993 and the building is now owned by the Grace Fellowship Chapel.



Bedminster Reformed Church
Bedminster Township
founded 1759, built 1897
Grace Fellowship Chapel
Mine Brook Road (Route 202)

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