

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JAN 29 1980
APR 2 1980
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 Christ Church, Graveyard and Sexton's House
HISTORIC Christ Church I.U. (complex)

AND/OR COMMON Christ Church, Graveyard and Sexton's House

2 LOCATION Worton, MD 298
STREET & NUMBER North side of Maryland Route 298, one-half mile east of Maryland Route Route 297
CITY, TOWN Worton VICINITY OF First
STATE Maryland CODE 24 COUNTY Kent CODE 029

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Vestry of I.U. Church, c/o Robert Sparre

STREET & NUMBER Jacobus Creek Farm

CITY, TOWN Worton VICINITY OF Maryland STATE 21678

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kent County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Chestertown, Maryland STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Christ Church is a small brick structure basilican in plan, with a narrower sanctuary appended to its western end. The building is constructed entirely of common bond.

The entrance facade which is the eastern gable end is three bays wide consisting of a centrally placed, pointed arched doorway flanked by two pointed arched windows. The recessed double doors are surmounted by a wide wooden lintel and arched transom. Above the door in the center of the gable is a bull's eye window. The windows and door are provided with louvered shutters which open side to side and fixed pointed arch louvers at the top portion of the arched openings. Sills of Port Deposit granite elaborate window and door surrounds and project slightly from the wall plane. Brick pilasters are located at either side of the facade and join at the corners with pilasters at the end of each longitudinal face of the building.

The southern and northern facades of the building consist of four equal-sized bays separated by five brick pilasters terminating in wooden corbel caps and each containing a pointed arch window. All windows are double hung with 6/6 lights surmounted by lanceted sash. A bracketed cornice with blank frieze runs the length of the building. Chimneys are located at the central pilaster of each longitudinal facade.

A lower asymmetrically gabled chancel with a lean-to extension on the west facade houses the sanctuary and the sacristy, the latter of which is accessible through a lancet arched doorway with corresponding Gothic detailing in the transom. At the center of the west wall and corresponding to the altar position in the interior of the sanctuary is a double lancet window protected on the exterior by paneled shutters. Glazed headers are used to trim the segments of the pointed arch of the window surround and also appear in the letters "I" and "U" located in either side of the window at the spring line of the arch. A smaller similarly detailed window located on the north wall of the sacristy also illuminates the apse. Another pointed arched window smaller still and closer to ground level pierces the west wall of the sacristy.

On the interior, the nave space is divided by a single central aisle flanked by two rows of pews (12 single piece wooden benches on each side, one temporarily missing on the one side for seating use in the gallery).

The main entrance opens into a narrow rectangular vestibule or narthex which is lit by the windows flanking the exterior doorway and on the north and south sides by the westernmost windows on the longitudinal facades. A stairway with curved windows at the base located at the south wall of the vestibule leads to the upstairs gallery which over-hangs over the nave space by a couple of feet across the east end of the room. A small door under the staircase at the southeast corner of the vestibule marks a storage area. Opposite this a larger, full-sized door in the northeast corner opening to reveal another small closet. On axis with the entrance doors is another set of double doors offering access to the nave, the top panels of which are detailed with recessed carved lancet arches; the lower square panels have been subsequently replaced by louvered panels (inconsonant with the original design.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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			

1760s for cemetery

SPECIFIC DATES Christ Church 1856-1858 BUILDER/ARCHITECT
Sexton's House 1774-1793

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Christ Church represents a well-proportioned example of a small Gothic Revival structure interpreted in brick, the most popular local building material. It is fortuitously sited in the middle of a pre-existing churchyard and retains its precious rural character in this setting. Its exterior detailing, while relatively straight-forward in accordance with the modest scale of the building, is executed in an appealing crispness and clarity. The unaltered interior space is characteristically light, accented with fine carved woodwork in an excellent state of preservation.

A memorial wall built in 1925 surrounds the churchyard; the inside facing features marble and cement commemorative panels of former rectors and vestrymen. Some of these plaques have been damaged by years of weathering and lie exposed in fragments. The graveyard dates contemporaneously with the first use of a church on this site in 1760s; the cemetery is one of the oldest in continuous use in Kent County.

The origin of the I.U. stone which has designated this parish from its beginning is unclear. The stone itself, considerably worn but with the inscribed letters "I.U." still discernable, rests on a base with footstones set in, at some distance from the Sexton's house but within the churchyard.

The present church replaced St. Peter's Church, the original I.U. Church which dated from mid-eighteenth century, but fell into disrepair after the first decade of the nineteenth century. (Records state that after 1809 St. Peter's Church was no longer used for worship. The ruins were sold in 1830.) In 1855 a resolution was passed by the Vestry of Chester Parish to look into the erection of another I.U. Church. According to the church records the building was constructed from 1857-1858 on the site of old St. Peter's but, the new church's orientation was changed so that the principal entrance now faces east and the altar area is located at the west end.

The history of this parish is interconnected with developments in the surrounding community. The original structure, St. Peter's, was the Mother Parish for Emmanuel Church, Chestertown, then a "Chapel of Ease." Many of the early parishioners were founder and/or primary contributors to nearby Washington College, (established in 1782 as Maryland's first chartered college and the nation's tenth. The Vestry members were often representative of the planter-merchant oligarchy which dominated the area's economy particularly around the time of the Revolution when Chestertown was an important port of entry for the Delmarva Peninsula.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Hallman, E.C. The Garden of Methodism. Perinsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, n.d.
- Hanson, Georgia A. Old Kent. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1967.
- Rightmeyer, Nelson. Maryland's Established Church. Baltimore: The Church Historical Society Diocese of Maryland. 1956.
- Skirven, Percy G. I.U. A Historic Shrine in Old Kent. Baltimore, 1931.
- Usilton, Fred. History of Kent County, Maryland. Kent County, Maryland. Wm B. Usilton & Sons, 1899/ (unpubl.), 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Chestertown Tea Party Festival Booklet

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4½ + acres

UTM REFERENCES Latitude: 79°17'26" Longitude: 76°05'32"

**UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

A

ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING					

C

ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING					

B

ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING					

D

ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

AS SHOWN ON THE ENCLOSED KENT COUNTY TAX MAP 19, PAGE 19.

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

Kathleen B. and Maynard P. White, Jr.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

8/24/78

STREET & NUMBER

107 South Mill Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

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

[Signature] 1-14-80

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]

DATE

4/2/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

[Signature]

DATE

3-31-80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]
Regional Coordinator

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Christ Church I.U.
Kent County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

The gallery is elaborated by a plain railing with turned balusters and four taller candlestands placed at equal intervals along the length of the molded handrail. Three pews provide additional seating here, and the bull's eye window illuminates this space.

The pointed arch windows in the nave below are elaborated by substantial architrave-molded wooden surrounds which conform to the shape of the window and are crowned at the apex by a boss. This trim and all other woodwork in the church were grained, but subsequent applications of varnish have all but obliterated this illusory effect in many instances.

The wooden membered ceiling is characterized by an intervening series of three chamfered simple trusses which support the system of purlins and rafters. The junction of the end of each common rafter and the wall, at the eave line, is marked by a wooden bracket. Larger pairs of brackets are located at the ends of the three principal rafters. Wall buttresses terminating in two small brackets located on the north and south sides in positions corresponding to the chimneys mask interior flues.

Two wrought iron four arm chandeliers, formerly kerosene but now electrified, are positioned over the central aisle. A third similar chandelier was located on axis in the sanctuary but is presently in storage. The pews are grained and trefoil cut-outs adorn the upper portions of the end panels.

The triumphal arch defining the entrance to the sanctuary is characterized by treatment similar to the window surrounds: a heavy architrave molding crowned by a boss. Paneled pilasters topped by finials complete the opening which is enlarged side to side by the horizontal extension of the architrave molding to connect with the pilaster capitals. Consoles with pendants decorate each of the corners formed by this arrangement. Above and on axis with the apex of the arch is an applied wooden medallion consisting of a trefoil inscribed "IHS" within a circle.

On the nave side of the two-step entrance into the chancel are to the south a wooden pulpit elaborated with applied Gothic detail and a wooden baptismal font, and to the north an oak organ and a marble baptismal font handsomely carved in a foliate motif. The altar rail and turned balusters are oak as is the bishop's chair with trefoil and lancet arch cut-out decorations topped by a botonee cross. The altar table which rises to a height just above the sill of the central window is a later addition (circa 1906) executed in marble.

The Sexton's house at Christ Church dates from the period of the earlier church and consists of two adjoining sections, one brick and one stone, both one story high with dormers.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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Christ Church I.U.
Kent County
Mary

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

2

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

The brick section, laid in common bond upon a stone foundation, is three bays in length. The westernmost of the three windows on the building's south facade replaces what was once the principal entrance door. The other two windows on that facade and the asymmetrically placed window on the east gable end contain older 9/6 sash and appear to retain their original molded wooden surrounds. The north facade contains two 9/6 windows with like surrounds as well and a single flat headed 6/6 dormer atop the easternmost window which corresponds in configuration to the two dormers above the east and west outside windows on the south facade. The east gable end frames a large interior wall fireplace whose chimney, covered in stucco, rises above the roofline. A recent concrete block addition housing a bathroom extends from the northeast corner of the building.

The frame section, a subsequent clapboarded addition to the west gable end of the brick dwelling, contains on the south facade what is now the entrance to the building, a doorway flanked on the west side by a small 6/6 window and accessible by a flight of wooden steps. Another flat-headed 6/6 dormer is placed atop the entrance bay. Contained within the stone foundation beneath this section is a basement entered in by a shed door at the northwest corner of the west gable end. A small rectangular window pierces the foundation below the window on the south side of the building. A small brick chimney in need of repair rises above the west gable roof. The north facade is articulated in the same fashion as the south: door flanked on the west side by a 6/6 window and surround with the same 6/6 flat dormer. All of the dormers are sheathed in the same asphalt shingles that cover the roof.

The boxed cornice which overhangs the longitudinal sides by about thirteen inches unifies both facades. The entire building is painted white with some glazed bricks showing through beneath the paint.