

PH0001279

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

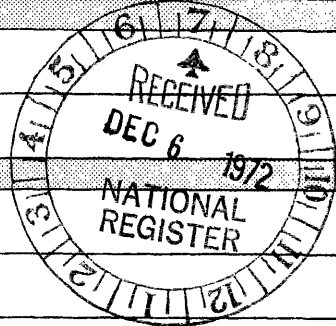
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 8 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Christ Church, Milford

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Christ Church, Mispillion



**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Third and Church Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Milford

STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: Kent CODE: 001

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Rector, Trustees, and Vestry of Christ Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West Third and Church Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Milford STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Kent County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
The Green

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER:

DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

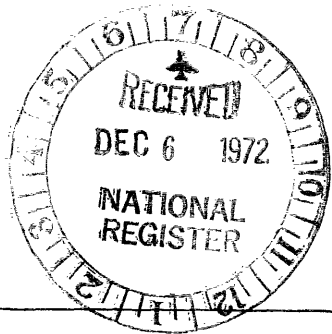
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Christ Church today presents the appearance of a Gothic Revival structure. The original 1791 chapel has been expanded and remodelled, almost to the point of obscurity.

The basic plan of the building as originally built included a rectangular nave with side aisles, an east altar, and an entry located in the southwest corner of the church. To this basic block has been added a sacristy to the northeast, a chancel to the east, a square tower to the southeast, and an entry porch to the southwest. All of the windows have been replaced, and a large triple-lancet Gothic window has been added to the west wall.

On the interior the original woodwork has been replaced, including the flooring and structural members. The church was originally equipped with box pews and a gallery along the north, west, and south walls. The present interior features Gothic arch rafter supports and beaded tongue-and-groove wainscoting.

The exterior of Christ Church is faced with brick laid in English-garden-wall bond. On the north and south walls the lancet windows are set in pairs; a triple lancet window graces the east wall. Detailing includes sandal brick arches over the openings, and sandal belt courses set flush with the wall surface. A water table occurs only on the newer additions and across the east facade. Shallow buttresses occur on the tower and entry.



**SIGNIFICANCE**

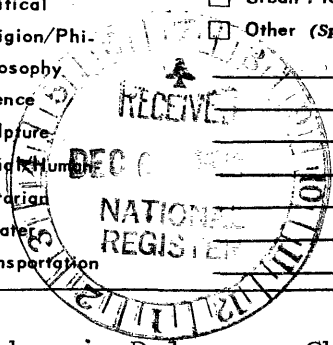
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1791 (began) 1835 (finished)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social History                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |   |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the original Anglican parishes in Delaware, Christ Church Parish was established in 1704 by the missionaries of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. It was served by the Society until 1777. The first parish church was built between 1704 and 1720 on "Church Hill," about three miles west of present-day Milford. This frame church, called "Christ Church of Mispillion," was commonly known as "Savannah Church" because of a swamp near the site.

In 1787 Joseph Oliver laid out his farm into town lots, forming the nucleus of Milford. He set aside two lots, and aided The Reverend Syndenham Thorne in the erection of the present Christ Church. Parson Thorne donated the timbers, sawn in his own mill, and paid for the bricks from Oliver's brickyards to erect the "Christ Church in Milford." Begun in 1791, the church was yet unfinished in 1793 when Thorne died. In fact, the building was not fully completed until 1835, under the direction of The Reverend Corry Chambers; Christ Church was consecrated in 1836 by Bishop Henry U. Onderdonk.

Since its completion in 1835, Christ Church has undergone several alterations and additions. Between 1863 and 1894 various alterations were made under The Reverend J. Leighton McKim. Included among these were the removal of the gallery and box pews and the replacement of

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Federal Writers Project. Delaware: A Guide to the First State. New York: Hastings House, 1938. page 213.  
 Hynson, George B. Historical Etchings of Milford and Vicinity. Milford, Delaware: Hynson and Mears, 1899. pp. 92-96.  
 MacDonald, Betty Harrington. Historic Landmarks of Delaware and the Eastern Shore. Delaware Society Daughters of the American Colonists, 1963. p. 65.  
 Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware. Philadelphia: L.J. Richards and Co., 1888. pp. 1195-1197.  
 Zebley, Frank R. The Churches of Delaware. Wilmington: by the author.

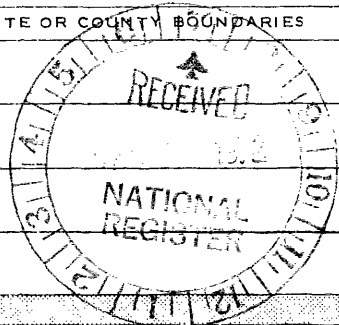
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA 1947. pp. 254-256.**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	38°	54'	55"	75°	25'	56"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **One acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Mr. Vincent Rogers and Mr. Graydon Wood**

ORGANIZATION: **Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs** DATE: **10/4/72**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Hall of Records**

CITY OR TOWN: **Dover** STATE: **Delaware** CODE: **10**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name *E. Berkeley Tompkins*  
**Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins**

Title Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Date Nov. 21, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Robert W. Utley*  
**Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation**

Date 5/8/73

ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
**Keeper of The National Register**

Date 5 2 73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Delaware	
COUNTY	Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		MAY 8 1973

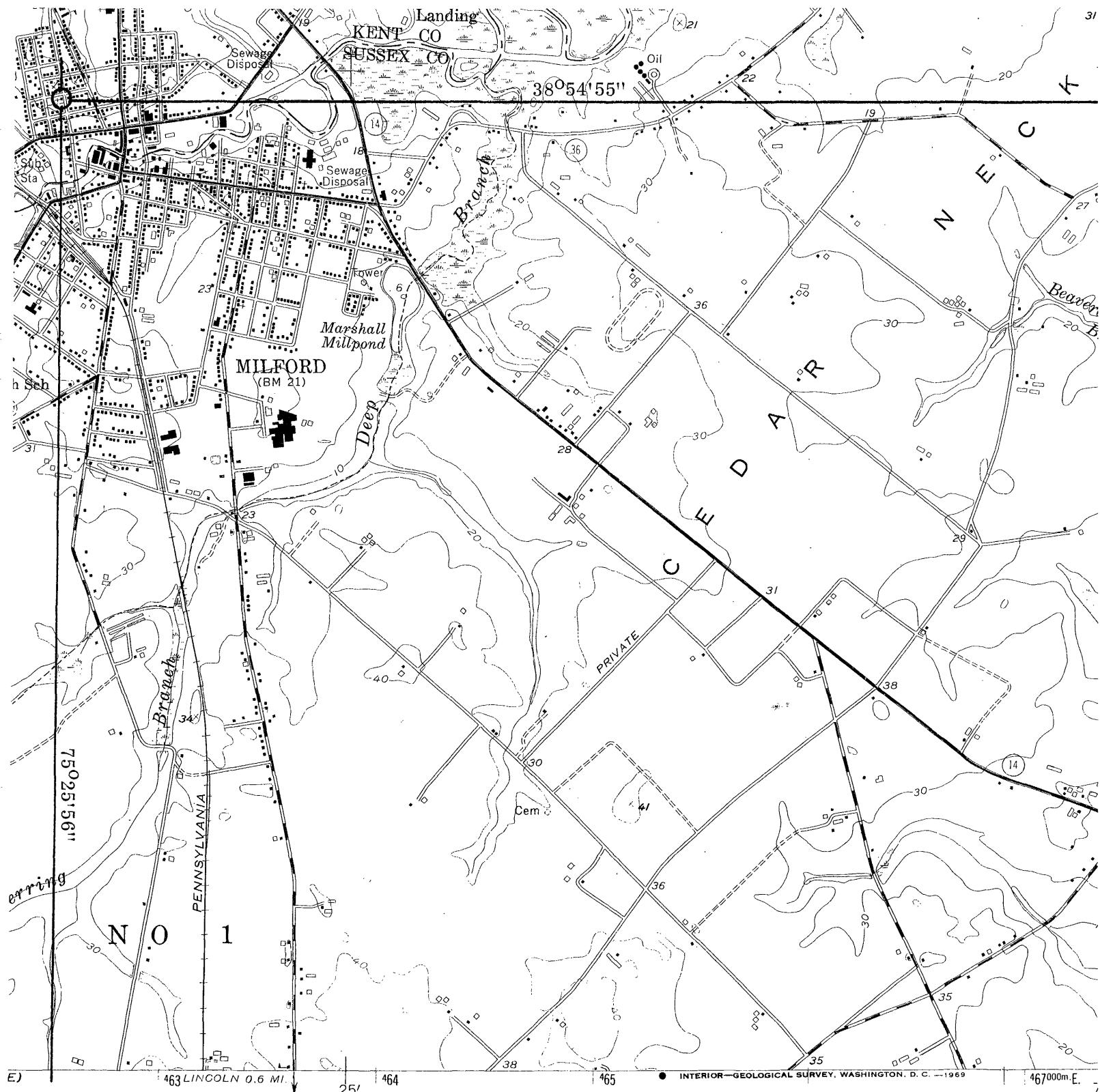
(Number all entries)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)---

the two rows of plain glazed windows with pairs of lancet windows. A chancel, sacristy, entry porch, and bell tower were also added.

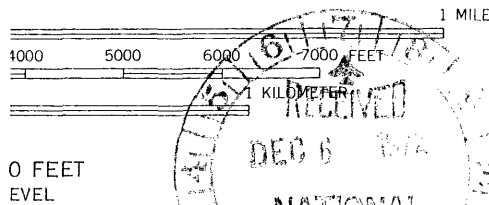
Christ Church is notable as the parish of several outstanding persons. It was sometimes served by The Reverend Charles Inglis, rector of Christ Church Dover from 1759 to 1765, who was consecrated Bishop of Nova Scotia in 1787, thus becoming England's first colonial bishop. The Reverend Syndenham Thorne, builder of the present church, was one of the few Anglican rectors to continue services during the Revolution by officiating at services only when the liturgy did not require state prayers. In addition to Joseph Oliver, the co-founder of Milford, the churchyard contains the graves of two governors of Delaware who were members of Christ Church parish: William Burton and William Tharp.



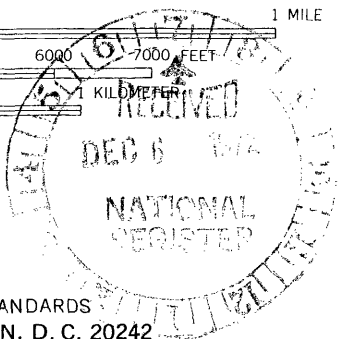


Christ Church

ROAD CLASSIFICATION



- Heavy-duty
- Medium-duty
- Light-duty
- Unimproved dirt
- U. S. Route
- State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

MILFORD, DEL.  
 NW/4 CEDAR CREEK 15' QUADRAN  
 N 3852.5 - W 7522.5 / 7.5

P ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1954

AMS 5961 IV NW--SERIES V8