

PH0021822

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 13 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Christ Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
"Old Lightwood"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Junction of County Roads #465 and 465A, on S. bank of Chipmans Pond

CITY OR TOWN:
Laurel, Delaware

STATE Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: Sussex	CODE 005
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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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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 checked="" 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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
St. Philips Church, for the Diocese of Delaware

STREET AND NUMBER:
South Central Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Laurel	STATE: Delaware	CODE 10
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Courthouse, Snow Hill, Md., Worcester Co. Deed Book for 1772

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Snow Hill	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Building Survey

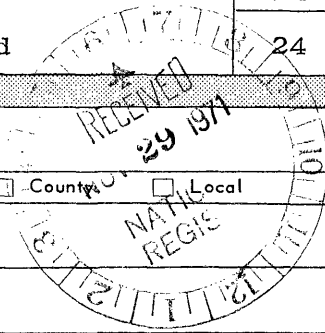
DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington, D.C.	STATE:	CODE
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This church in the northern part of Stepney Parish was closely patterned after the mother church at Green Hill, Maryland. The chief difference is that the Stepney church is built of brick, while Christ Church is built of wood, and so well built of fine-grained, resinous heart-of-pine planks that it is still in sound and excellent condition. It stands on a slight rise beside Chipman's Pond whose waters enter Broad Creek and eventually flow into the Nanticoke.

Only the white window sashes are painted. The rest of the structure has weathered to the rich golden brown of old pine needles. It seems a natural outgrowth from the pine woods behind it. The interior also is entirely unpainted save for the white window sashes. The wood has taken on a gratifying colour from age.

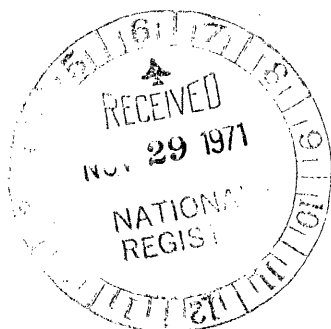
The windows are protected by solid plank shutters, which are fastened and locked with a unique hand wrought-iron "T"-iron locked with a wedge on the inside of the building.

The tall panelled pulpit, with a sounding-board and the clerk's reading-desk below and in front of it, stands in the traditional place, against the north wall, mid-way the length of the church. At the east end of the church, the altar is a plain table; the railing that surrounds it has slender turned spindles.

At the west end is the slaves' gallery, reached by a stair in the northwest corner. All the pews are of high-backed, square box type with doors, each pew large enough for a whole family; backs, doors and sides of the pews are all panelled. The wooden ceiling is a rather flattened barrel vault.

Altogether, the church as it stands today is a striking example of eighteenth-century native workmanship successfully adapting Georgian ecclesiastical tradition and precedent to a worthy expression in wood, the prevalent and only available building material of the region.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



6. 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 type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Paid for September 1772 A.D.**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <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

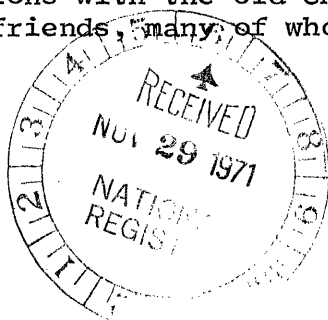
Christ Church, Broad Creek Hundred, was built in 1770 (finished 1772) as a Chapel of Ease of Stepney Parish in Maryland. Before the Revolutionary War, all the Church of England parishes in the American Colonies were part of the Diocese of London. When a parish had such widely extended territorial boundaries that many of the members found it difficult, at times well-nigh impossible, to attend the parish church, it was not unusual to build a "Chapel of Ease" in a neighborhood to accommodate the more distant parishioners. The Chapel of Ease continued under the same Rector as the parish church.

Stepney Parish was originally bounded on the north and west by the Nanticoke River and on the south and east by the Wicomoco River. The land whereon Christ Church, Broad Creek, now stands was claimed by Maryland until 1775.

Among the treasured heirlooms of Christ Church are two old silver chalices. Also, there are two ancient pewter alms basins and a pewter paten. The pewterer was Gleason. A Bible, said to have been presented by Queen Charlotte has disappeared.

Four Governors of Delaware have been members or communicants at Old Christ Church, Broad Creek; Governor (General) Nathaniel Mitchel, 1805-1808; Governor William B. Cooper, 1841-1845; Governor William H. Ross, 1851-1855; and our recent two term Governor, Elbert N. Carvel. Governor Nathaniel Mitchel is buried here.

Christ Church is in the charge of the Rector of St. Philip's Church, Laurel. Several special services each year are held in the old church and people come from long distances to attend them. Regular services have been discontinued since 1850. Cherished family associations with the old church assure care of the building by staunch friends, many of whom now live at a distance.



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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Scharf, J.T., "Scharf's History of Delaware." 1888.
 Zebley, Frank R., "The Churches of Delaware." 1947.
 Microfilms of Stepney Parish Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.
 Conrad, Henry C., "History of Delaware." 1908.
 "Delaware History" of October 1960. Historical Society of Delaware,
 Vol. IX, No. 2.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		
NE	" " "	" " "	38° 33' 40"	75° 32' 16"		
SE	" " "	" " "				
SW	" " "	" " "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **3.8**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mr. Rea Wilkie, Historic Registrar

ORGANIZATION: **Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs** DATE: _____

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 **State Liaison Officer**

Date _____

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

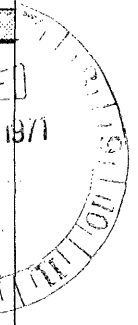
RECEIVED
 NO. 20 1972
 NATL. HIST. REGIS.

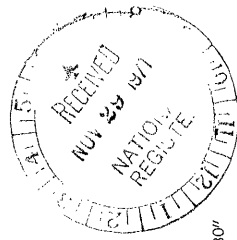
Date *4/13/72*

ATTEST:
William F. Swartz
 Keeper of The National Register

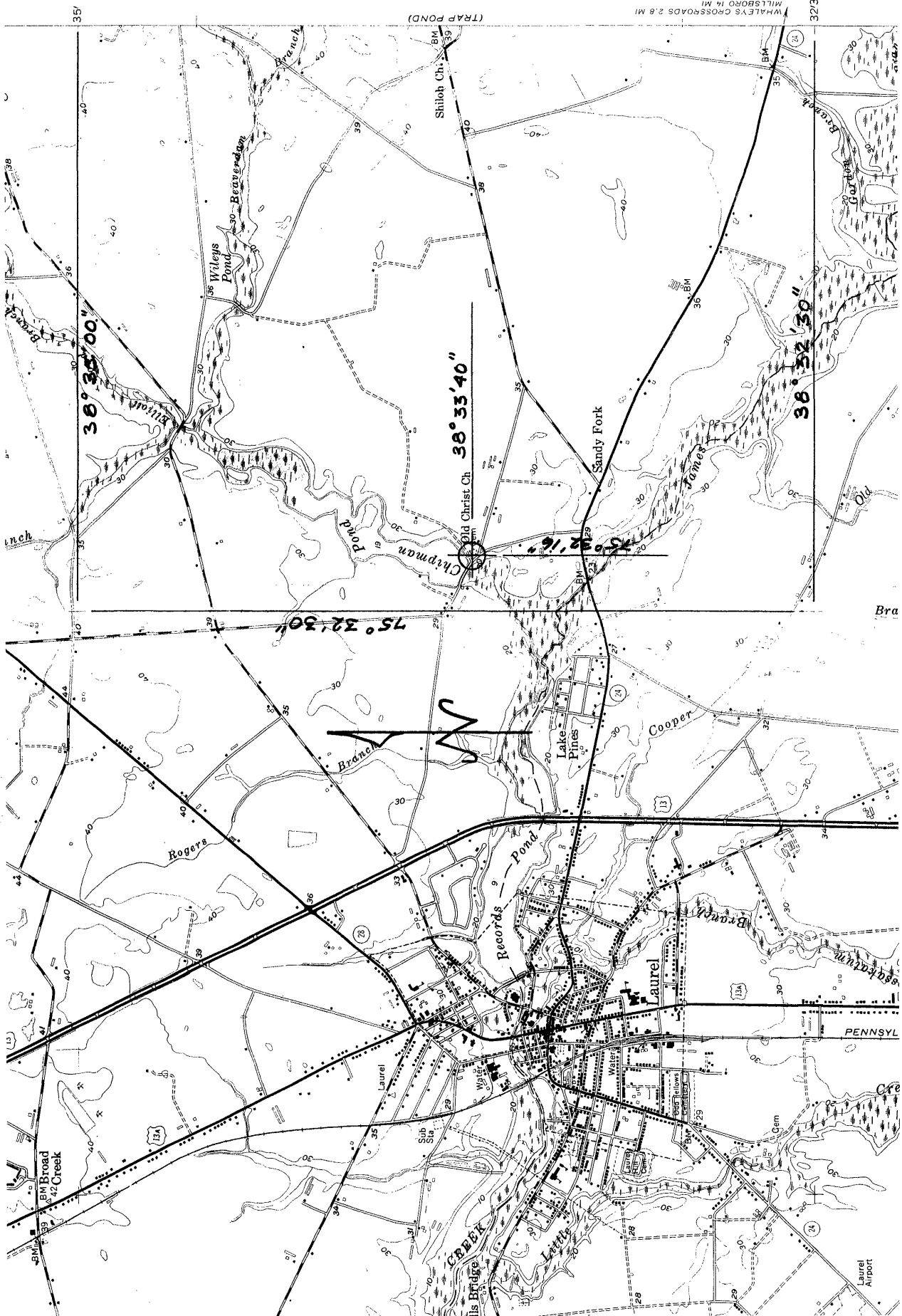
Date **APR 13 1972**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





WHALEY'S CROSSROADS 2.6 MI
MILLSBORO 14 MI



35

36° 35' 00"

38° 33' 40"

38° 32' 30"

75° 32' 30"



32° 30'

30
20
10
0

Bra

PENNSYL

Laurel
Airport