

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Monmouth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 11.11.34.0021	DATE 11/12/71

1. NAME

COMMON: Christ Church, Middletown

AND/OR HISTORIC: The Minister, Church Wardens and Vestry of Christ Church in the Towne of Middletown, New Jersey

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 92 King's Highway

CITY OR TOWN: Middletown

STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34 COUNTY: Monmouth CODE: 025

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" 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
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 _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: The Diocese of New Jersey (in trust)

STREET AND NUMBER: Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, W. State St. and Overbrook Ave.

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Monmouth County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER: Court Street

CITY OR TOWN: Freehold STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey (NJ-325)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936, 1937 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COUNTY: Monmouth
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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 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

The building has the same appearance it had when constructed in 1835 around an earlier 1744 church. The earlier design was believed to have been an adaptation of Middletown's 1670 blockhouse/court. Thus 1670 timbers on a 1670 foundation are probably part of the structure. It is rectangular with ridged roof and square cupola. A lower-roofed 1884 addition (chancel and vestry) does not detract from its original shape.
 - (Dimensions in the sketch below)

Walls, 16½' high, are of 4" to-the-weather white clapboard with large windows, 10' x 3'6", three to a side and one each side of the double front doors. Windows are gothic style with clear, 16 over 16 panes. Dark shutters flank sashes and matching louvers cover their arched tops.

The roof has a pitch of 45°. The cupola, with a pinnacle or spire at each corner and louvers, gothic openings on each side, houses a church bell given by the people of the village in 1835.

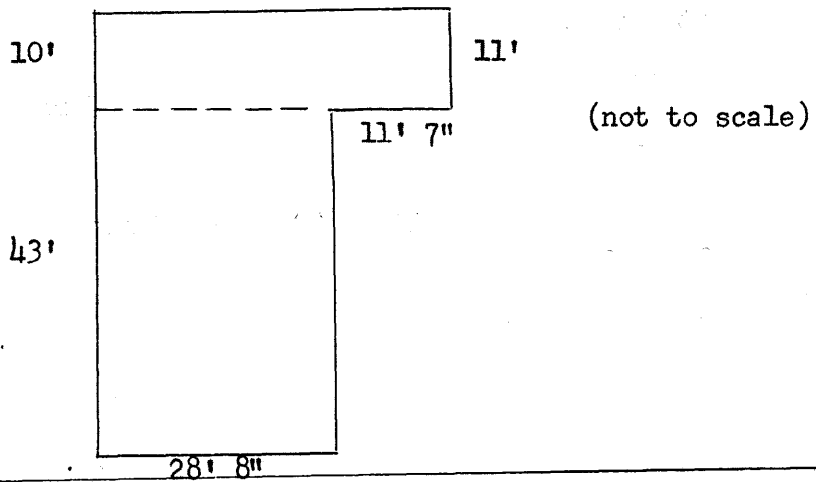
A louvered quatrefoil below the peak of the roof, an old iron cross, and lamps at the front doors adorn the north elevation (facade).

The foundation is composed of large, rough stones, pointed up in the 1920's when a cellar was dug to install a heating system. Old handhewn floor joists can be seen here.

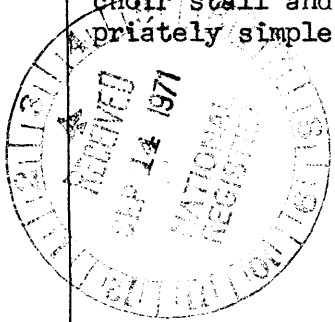
To the left and rear of the Church building is a graveyard and there is a stone memorial to William Leeds, early benefactor of the Church, on the front lawn.

Entry to the auditory is through a small vestibule and an inner set of double doors. A simple white interior emphasizes the architectural lines of the interior - barrel-ceiling, wainscoting to window sills and plaster walls. After a cruciform crack appeared in the plaster wall over the pulpit, a legend grew that this was the handiwork of Captain Kidd's sword. The crack is maintained unrepaired. Pews have side and center isles. A large arch leads to the chancel; a smaller one to an organ and choir stall and a small gothic door to the vestry. Furnishings are appropriately simple.

40' 3"



SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. Significance

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1607, 1702, 1705, 1738, 1745, 1835

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 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, Middletown, is significant architecturally as an example of a small neo-gothic influenced church structure of the period. It is the only one of its type in Middletown and remains in almost pristine condition. See description - section 7.

The historical significance (with dates) is as follows:

1670 - Middletown built a blockhouse. It became one of the Monmouth Patent courts that established the County. In 1701 a judge of these courts wrote the Council of New Jersey about the trial of a pirate that was broken up by townspeople who freed the prisoner and put the Governor and his justices under guard. He said a number of Middletowners kept pirates in their homes.

1680's and 1690's - Alexander Innes, former chaplain, Fort of New York, held Church of England services in a private home.

1701 - Governor Lewis Morris wrote the Bishop of London about "wicked" Middletown. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts resulted.

1702 - SPGFP missionary George Keith, known for drawing the first line between East and West Jersey when Surveyor General, came to Middletown. Along with Innes he formally established Christ Church on October 17.

1705 - John Johnston, a presiding judge of the court and friend of Innes gave the old court site as "rights of location" for use of the Church.

1736 - William Leeds, reputed reformed cohort of Capt. Kidd, then a staunch churchman, left a glebe for this Church and Christ Church, Shrewsbury.

1738 - George II granted the Church a charter signed by colonial Gov. Burnet.

1744 - A specific churchbuilding was started.

1745 - The SPGFP missionary in charge reported it ready for church services.

1778 - Sir Henry Clinton and Lord Cornwallis leaving the Battle of Monmouth met at the Church corner. Some of the wounded were housed in the Church.

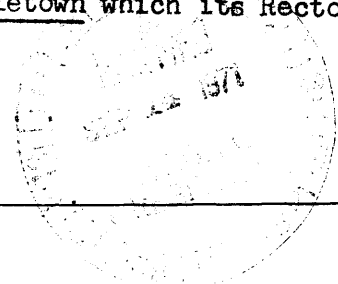
1785 - Christ Church sent delegates to the first General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

1835 - The present building was constructed around the shells of the old buildings, that formerly stood on the site.

1854 - An act of the Legislature separated Christ Church, Middletown and Christ Church, Shrewsbury after years of sharing the Leed's glebe.

1928 - Christ Church published The Story of Middletown which its Rector authored.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ernest W. Mandeville. The Story of Middletown. 1928
The Journal of the Reverend George Keith, 1702-1704. Reprint, Historical Magazine of the P. E. Church, Dec. 1951.
 Archives, Secretary of State (N.J.) Vols I, II, XXIII
 Salter, Edwin. The History of Monmouth and Ocean Counties. 1890.
 Ellis. The History of Monmouth County, New Jersey. 1885
 Smith, Samuel. The History of the Colony of Nova-Caesaria or New Jersey. 1765. Reprint, William Sharp, 1890.
 Stillwell. Historical and Genealogical Miscellany. 1903, 1906
The Towne Book of Middletown (from 1667)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: $\frac{1}{4}$ acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Thelma K. Jelliffe, History Committee

ORGANIZATION: Episcopal Church Women, Christ Church, Middletown DATE: May 3, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: The Franklin Academy, 53 The Kings' Highway

CITY OR TOWN: Middletown STATE: New Jersey 07748 CODE: 34

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Richard J. Sullivan</u> Title: <u>Commissioner, N.J. Department of Environmental Protection</u> Date: <u>July 19, 1971</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest A. Connelly</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation NOV 12 1971</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>ATTEST: <u>William H. Newcomb</u> Keeper of The National Register NOV 9 1971</p>
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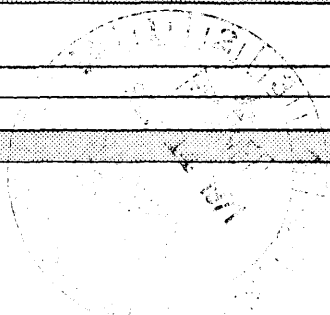
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

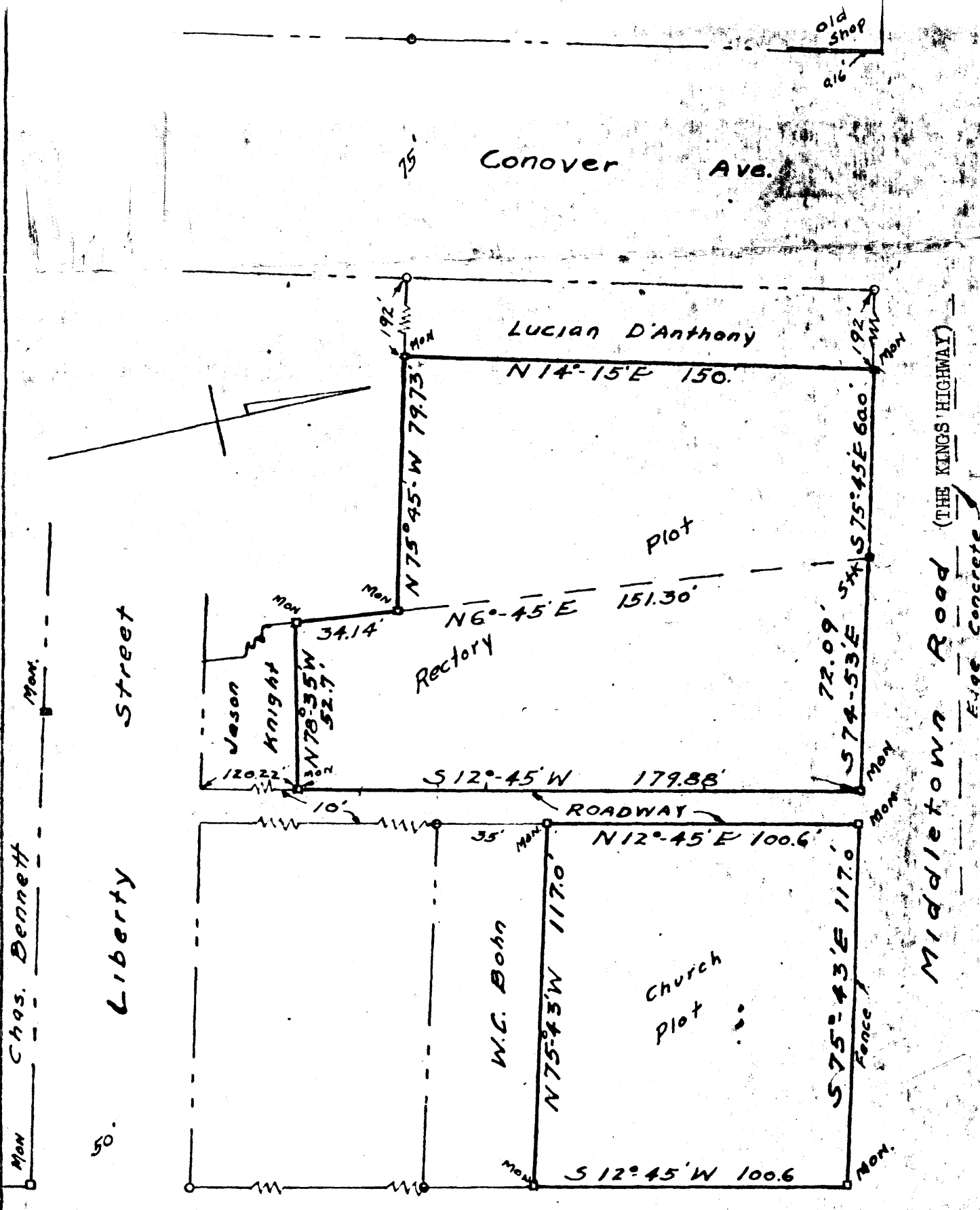
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Monmouth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 7/1/11 34 0021	DATE 11/12/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Christ Church, Middletown			
AND/OR HISTORIC: The Minister, Church Wardens, and Vestry of Christ Church in			
2. LOCATION the Towne of Middletown, N.J.			
STREET AND NUMBER: 92 Kings' Highway			
CITY OR TOWN: Middletown			
STATE: New Jersey	CODE 34	COUNTY: Monmouth	CODE 025
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: Surveyors Map of Property			
SCALE: 1" = 40'			
DATE: 1948			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





Middletown - Lincroft Road (Church Street)

Latitude: 40 23' 38" N
 Longitude: 74 07' 04" W

Map of Property of
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 Middletown Road
 Middletown, N.J.
 May 3, 1948 Scale 1" = 40'
 Henry S. Labrecque
 Engineer
 LIC # 4144
 Henry F. Labrecque
 Red Bank, N.J.
 Dwg L-15