

PA#367656

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 23 1976
DATE ENTERED JUL 21 1977

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

HISTORIC
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
SW of Pittstown on
Sky Manor Road

CITY, TOWN
Alexandria Township
VICINITY OF
Pittstown
STATE
New Jersey
CODE
034
COUNTY
Hunterdon
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
13th
CODE
019

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	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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
STREET & NUMBER
808 West State Street
CITY, TOWN
Trenton
VICINITY OF
STATE
New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Hunterdon County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Flemington
STATE
New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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

16"
Lehigh
3.28.77
St. Thomas Episcopal Church is a small 1 1/2 story stone building. It is 30' x 40' with 16" walls. It is a simple rectangular building with a gable roof. There are two windows on each side with 6 over 6 panes in each. There is one window on both gable ends which are 8 over 8 on the west side. On the east side, the sanctuary area in the interior, the window is 21 over 21 surmounted by a lunette.

On the interior the floorboards are 4 to 6 inches in width. The interior is very plain except for the pews and the altar. While there is no gallery in the church at the present there are indications that there was one. On the west side there appears to be an opening which has been sealed up above the window that would have led to a gallery. There are 2 electric heaters on a large cross beam. The church has no basement but has a crawl space about 3 feet high.

The roof has been replaced with hand split shakes to use the same materials as the original. The shingles have a 5 inch exposure.

In 1839 a stone enclosure was put around the entire church property. The wall is still extant.

The church was built in C.1790 and was used by the inhabitants of the area. In 1822 the church was repaired by the people because it had fallen into disrepair. The church however was abandoned again in 1865 because it was felt it was unfit for use. It was repaired in 1875 and has been used ever since. There have been no major alterations to the building only occasional normal repairs.

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 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		

SPECIFIC DATES C.1770

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Thomas Episcopal Church is one of the oldest churches within Hunterdon County. As early as the 1720's the developing community saw the need for a church. The first church stood on the south side of the road, nearly opposite the present one. It was probably a frame building, for a girder and other timbers in the present church contain mortises and other evidences of having been previously used.

In May 1768 Reverend William Frazer reported that the old log church was so dilapidated that he had officiated in houses until spring. Reverend Frazer urged the congregation to subscribe for a handsome brick or stone church, to be started in the spring and completed in October 1769.

In May of 1769, the church was not even begun, because the people were still discussing the site. By September, however, the difference of opinion had been composed, and the stone walls were completed. Work on the church was slow and in July 1772 Reverend Frazer preached a special sermon to remind the people that the building was only fit for services scarcely five months of the year.

The coming of the revolution forced the church to close. It was reopened shortly after and continued to operate effectively until 1795 when Reverend Frazer passed away. For several years in the early 1800's the congregation was very small, there was probably no vestry, services were irregular, and the building and grounds were neglected. Despite this the parish did not fold and in 1813-14 still contained about thirty families.

A revival of interest began about that time, after the appointment of the Reverend Daniel Higbee as missionary to vacant churches. He inspired the people to repair their "ruinous" church. In 1822 the church was thoroughly repaired and religious services were resumed under the ministry of Reverend Mc Douglas of New Brunswick, New Jersey.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burr, Nelson, "A Short History Of Saint Thomas, The Anglican Church in New Jersey, 1960
 Lequear, John, Traditions Of Hunterdon, (Flemington: D.H. Moreau), 1957, 116-123
 Snell, James P., History of Hunterdon And Somerset Counties, New Jersey, Philadelphia, 1881, 420-422

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8	5	10	0	8	9	0	4	4	8	9	7	8	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nanci Kostrub, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Sites Section, Department of Environmental Protection

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 1420

(609) 292-2023

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Trenton

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

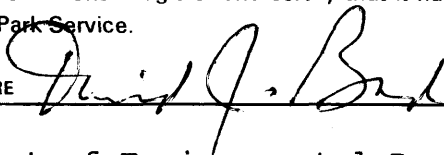
NATIONAL

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



TITLE

DATE

OCT 12 1976

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

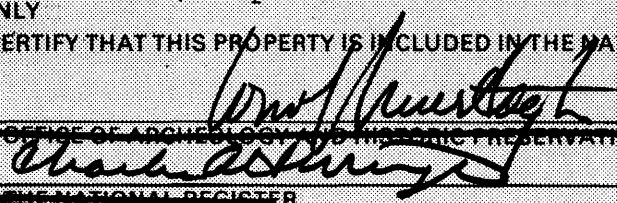
DATE

2/25/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:



DATE

6-14-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Alexandria Twp.

Hunterdon County

New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE #2

SIGNIFICANCE

There was a suspension of services for about ten years, the church being considered unfit for use. In 1875-76, Frederick Potts of Pittstown financed and personally supervised a complete repair of the building.

St. Thomas' architectural significance rests on the fact that it is one of a few examples of 18th century architecture still extant in the county. It is a representative example of early churches in the area and the care which has been taken to preserve the building is important in its own right.

As one of the oldest churches in Hunterdon County, St. Thomas has a strong religious significance. The fact that the people felt a need for a church as early as 1723 and when it was no longer useful replaced it with the present building shows their feeling for religion. Several times the present church fell into disrepair and the congregation with the help of benefactors managed to restore it and continue to use it. Their feelings for church and this building throughout the past 175 years have contributed to preserving the building until today.