

PHQ 363421

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 29 1975
DATE ENTERED	APR 28 1976

# 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  Trinity Church, Milton

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Milton Road

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Litchfield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_ VICINITY OF

6th-Anthony Moffett

STATE Connecticut

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

09

Litchfield

005

## 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<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:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trinity Parish Milton

STREET & NUMBER Milton Road

CITY, TOWN Litchfield

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE Connecticut

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER West Street

CITY, TOWN Litchfield

STATE Connecticut

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Assessor's Aerial Survey

DATE 1971

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Office of the Tax Assessor

CITY, TOWN Litchfield

STATE Connecticut

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

The village of Milton, surrounded by forests and farmland, is located about five miles to the northwest of the town of Litchfield, Connecticut. It is a very small village made up of eighteenth and nineteenth century houses lining Milton Road. Just south of Milton Road on the east side of the village is the green, surrounded by a few houses and what was at one time a schoolhouse. On the north side of the green thirty feet from the road in a rather secluded setting is the Trinity Church.

*perhaps*  
An unusual combination of Classical and Gothic features, this three bay, white clapboard church was designed by Oliver Dickinson in 1802 (though not completed until 1826) to resemble the Second Trinity Episcopal Church of New York (1788-1839). Both windows and door are of the lancet shape and the door is flanked by pilasters decorated with Gothic tracery which support architraves and a projecting lintel. A lancet shaped window centered in the pediment created by a gable roof repeats the vertical theme and leads up to the belfry and hexagonal steeple. Four pinnacles adorning the corners of the belfry and the lancet window on each side of it add further to the sense of upward movement the church has as a whole.

The side elevations are four bays long and these lancet windows are filled with stained glass. However, since the stained glass is of limited artistic interest and is not original to the design of the church, it will be replaced with clear glass.

Much of the interior of the church is original and in excellent condition, but the most interesting interior feature is a very old New England-built tracker organ located in the gallery at the rear of the nave.

As a whole Trinity Church is an exquisite building, for it is neat and compact, and of a perfect scale for the small village. At the same time its emphasis on upward movement must have provided religious inspiration for the people of Milton.

# 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 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 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      1802-1826      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Oliver Dickinson

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The village of Milton sprang up in the mid-eighteenth century as an off-shoot of the town of Litchfield. Likewise, the Trinity Church Parish was an off-shoot of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Litchfield and was incorporated in 1795. Between 1802 and 1826 the Church was built by Oliver Dickinson.

Most unusual is the combination of Gothic and Classical features, distinguishing Trinity Church from many other New England village churches. What is also intriguing is that a church resembling the Second Trinity Episcopal Church, New York (1788-1839) is to be found in a small village in rural Connecticut.

To add even further interest, Trinity Church houses what may be the oldest organ made in New England. The organ is supposed to have been built in 1823 and is from Boston, leading experts to suggest that it was built by either Ebenezer or William Goodrich, brothers who both owned organ building shops in Boston at the time.

The village of Milton, though small, is still very much the same as it was in the nineteenth century. In this unchanged condition it provides a valuable example of the way the many small Connecticut parishes must have looked when they first broke away from a larger town to form their own. Most important to these small villages, of course, was the church, and the early residents of Milton, no doubt, took great pride in Trinity Church.

*architectural only  
LE 130V  
3-3-76*

*belfry changed  
rebuild  
3-3-76*

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brewster, Mary B, St. Michael's Parish, Litchfield, St. Michael's Parish, 1954.

Doyle, Ellen, History of Milton, unpublished manuscript. (May be available through the Litchfield Historical Society).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

one (1)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A | 18 | 644000 | 4625520 |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | | |  
 D | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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: Christine B. Brockmeyer, Consultant DATE: August 3, 1975.

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE:

STREET & NUMBER: 59 South Prospect Street TELEPHONE:


CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

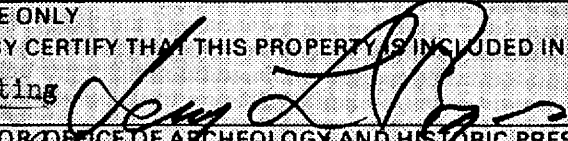
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE: 


TITLE: State Historic Preservation Officer DATE: 12/16/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting  DATE: 4/23/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:  DATE: 4-23-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Kelly, J. Frederick, Early Connecticut Meeting Houses, New York: Columbia University Press, 1948.

"Liberal Donation", The Eagle (Litchfield) No. 52, September 1, 1823, 3:1.  
(Solomon Marsh)

Morehouse, C.P., Trinity: Mother of Churches, Seabury, New York, 1973.

Trinity Church  
Memorial, 1917

Plotter: Jap  
Scale: 1" = 30'

Photo Key

