

2022 11508

AA-221

Form 10-300  
(July 1967)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Anne Arundel	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON  
Christ Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Christ Church, West River; Christ Church, Owensville

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Owensville Road (Maryland Route 255)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Owensville

STATE Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Anne Arundel	CODE 003
-------------------	------------	-------------------------	-------------

**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 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
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 _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Vestry of Christ Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Owensville Road (Maryland Route 255)

CITY OR TOWN:  
West River

STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24
--------------------	-------------

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Anne Arundel County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Church Circle

CITY OR TOWN:  
Annapolis

STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24
--------------------	-------------

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Annapolis

STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24
--------------------	-------------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Anne Arundel

ENTRY NUMBER: 24

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 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

Christ Church is located on the north side of the Owensville Road (Maryland Route 255) which connects Owensville and Galesville, Maryland.

A small, board and batten church, this wooden structure has a long, narrow nave; small, deep chancel; and an entrance porch on the south side. The altar faces the west. The sharply-pointed, gabled entrance porch with its pointed archway is paralleled by a slightly bell-cast, pointed-gable sacristy of about the same size. Behind the sacristy is a tall, narrow bell tower with an open belfry. The pointed arches of this belfry support a modified brooch spire roofed with fish-scale shingling. Small rectangular window openings frame stained glass lancet windows. There are three similar lancets above the altar in the east wall of the chancel. The west entrance forms a passageway to a similar board and batten parish hall, which runs at right angles to the main church. This parish hall may be recent, although it blends perfectly with the style of the church.

The rather stark interior of the church has a central aisle, 'poppy headed' pews, and dark wood cross trussing in the ceiling.

There is a large churchyard to the north of the church.

Although sometimes reputed to be by the noted church architect, Richard Upjohn, Christ Church was at least built from designs offered by his Rural Architecture (1852). This book 'gave' architect-designed plans for rural parishes, with the result that some of the finest 'Upjohn churches' are these small board and batten structures of rural parishes (e.g., Brunswick, Maine; Warsaw, New York; and at the Hannah More School in Baltimore County). They represent America's own version of the 'Parish Perpendicular.' In a very good state of preservation in which the 19th-century feeling has been retained, Christ Church was built according to Ecclesiological principles with a long, narrow, and high nave, and a deep chancel--the hallmark of Upjohn's ecclesiastical work for Episcopal churches. Upjohn treated other Protestant denominations differently.

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) 1869

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

The connection between Christ Church, Owensville, and Richard Upjohn (1802-1878), the noted American architect, gives this Anne Arundel County, Maryland, parish more than local significance.

Upjohn, born in England, came to the United States in 1829 and set up architectural practice in New Bedford, Massachusetts. His first building was Symphony House (1833) in Bangor, Maine. Five years later, Upjohn had moved to New York City and was working on Trinity Church (1839-1846) on Wall Street. Modeled on English Gothic examples, Trinity Church inaugurated a new departure in the American Gothic Revival style. Upjohn's numerous churches and residences located from New England to North Carolina established his role in 19th-century American architectural history.

The significance of Upjohn's contribution to American architecture was expanded by his architectural books, such as Rural Architecture (1852). Groups like Christ Church parish or individuals could choose a design from a book instead of hiring an architect to erect a church following Upjohn's plans. Through this "borrowing" of designs, Upjohn's architectural influence spread.

The Upjohn-style church in Owensville, Maryland, was built through the generosity of Mrs. Ellen Hall McCaleb Burwell, in memory of her two children, one of whom died in a sleighing accident and one from yellow fever.

Christ Church, created as an independent parish in 1862, occupies the site of an earlier chapel of ease of its "mother" parish, St. James-the-Less.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bridgman, Mrs. E. W., Jr. "Christ Church, West River, Maryland." n.d. Files of the Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis.

Bridgwater, William and Kurtz, Seymour, eds. The Columbia Encyclopedia. 3rd ed. New York: Columbia University Press, 1967.

Land Records, Anne Arundel County Courthouse, Annapolis, Md.

[see continuation sheet]

## 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
NW	38°	51'	14"	76°	35'	52"	0		
NE	38°	51'	14"	76°	35'	42"			
SE	38°	51'	06"	76°	35'	42"			
SW	38°	51'	06"	76°	35'	52"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 16 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Nancy Miller, Historian, and William Morgan

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

Aug. 16, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:

2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

CODE

24

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

Orlando Ridout IV

Title

State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Anne Arundel	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Christ Church

## 9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Stanton, Phoebe B. The Gothic Revival and American Church  
Architecture An Episode in Taste 1840-1856.  
Baltimore: the Johns Hopkins Press, 1968.

Upjohn, Everard M. Richard Upjohn, Architect and Churchman.  
New York: Columbia University Press.

Upjohn, Richard. Rural Architecture. 1852.



Form 10-301  
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE		Maryland	
COUNTY		Anne Arundel	
FOR NPS USE ONLY			
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Christ Church			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Christ Church, West River; Christ Church, Owensville			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Owensville Road (Maryland Route 255)			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Owensville			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Anne Arundel	003
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
USGS 7.5 minute map; Deale Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1: 24 000			
DATE: 1957			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Property boundaries where required.</li> <li>2. North arrow.</li> <li>3. Latitude and longitude reference.</li> </ol>			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE	Maryland		
COUNTY	Anne Arundel		
FOR NPS USE ONLY			
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE	

AA-221

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME  
COMMON: Christ Church  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Christ Church, West River; Christ Church, Owensville

2. LOCATION  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Owensville Road (Maryland Route 255)  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Owensville  
STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Anne Arundel CODE: 003

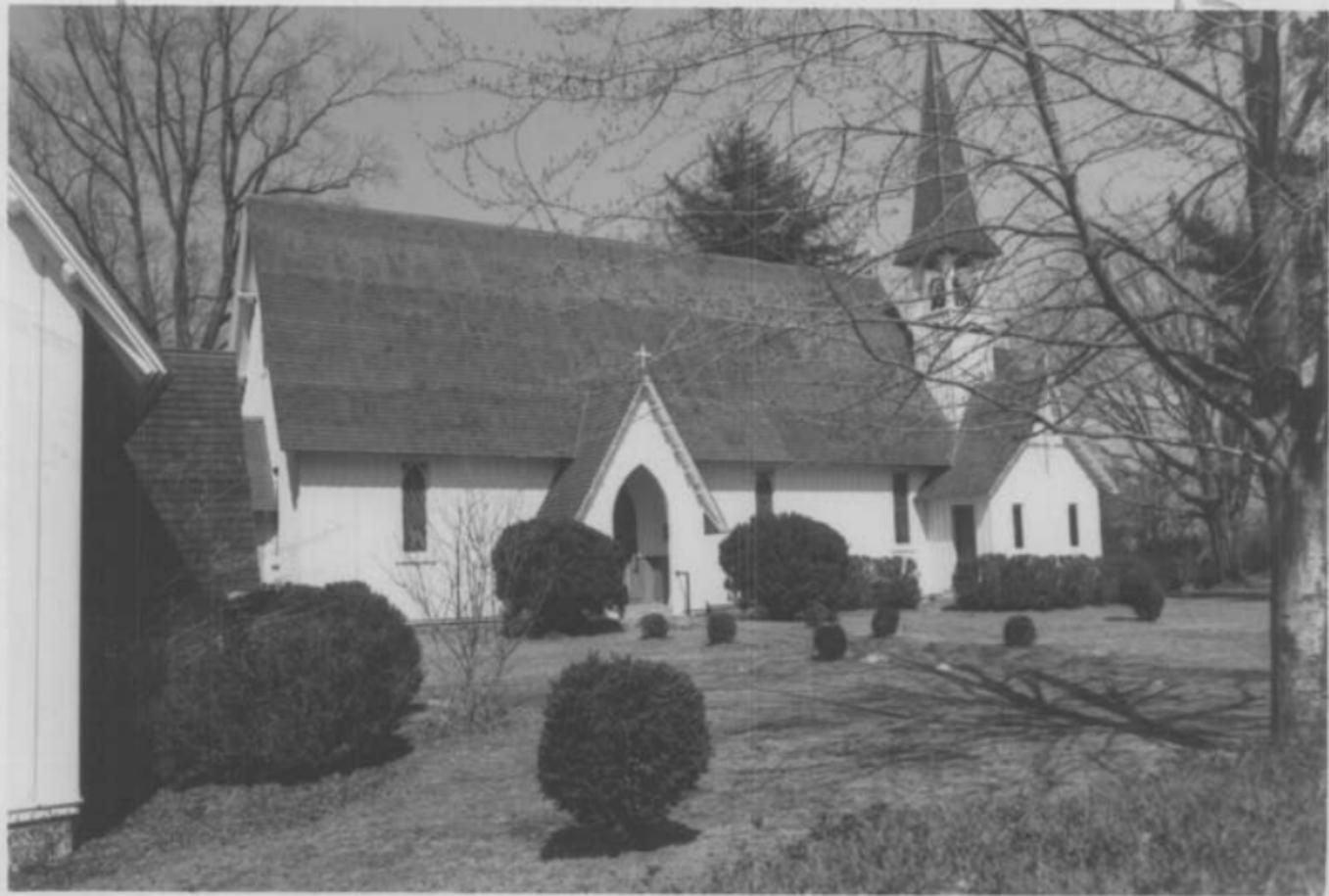
3. PHOTO REFERENCE  
PHOTO CREDIT: William Morgan  
DATE OF PHOTO: June 1969  
NEGATIVE FILED AT:  
Maryland Historical Trust, 2525 Riva Rd., Annapolis, Md. 21401

4. IDENTIFICATION  
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  
  
south elevation

GPO 921-737



• MAR • 68



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Christ Church

AA-221

AA VII - 136

S/S

CHRIST

CHRIST CHURCH

5/24/69

T. b

TAD

SAT

hwa  
- h/

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOX 1704  
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

OR 2/68

JUN

69



AA-221

South elevation

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WILLIAM D. MORGAN

Christ Ch. West River AA Jun '69

• MAR • 68



Christ Church DeWingsville  
a a co

AA-221



AA-221

Chist Ch. West River AA Jun '69

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WILLIAM D. MORGAN