NRIS # 0500403208 CT-40

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

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: Calvert
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Christ Church
AND OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Broome Island Road; Maryland Route 264
CITY OR TOWN: Port Republic
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First
STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24
COUNTY: Calvert — CODE: 009

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
[ ] District [X] Building	[ ] Public	Public Acquisition:	[X] Occupied	Yes:
[ ] Site [ ] Structure	[X] Private	[ ] In Process	[ ] Unoccupied	[ ] Restricted
[ ] Object	[ ] Both	[ ] Being Considered	[ ] Preservation work in progress	[X] Unrestricted
				[ ] No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

[ ] Agricultural	[ ] Government	[ ] Park	[ ] Transportation	[ ] Comments
[ ] Commercial	[ ] Industrial	[ ] Private Residence	[ ] Other (Specify)	
[ ] Educational	[ ] Military	[X] Religious		
[ ] Entertainment	[ ] Museum	[ ] Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: The Vestry of Christ Church Parish
STREET AND NUMBER: Broome Island Road; Maryland Route 264
CITY OR TOWN: Port Republic
STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Calvert County Court House
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street
CITY OR TOWN: Prince Frederick
STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
[ ] Federal [ ] State [ ] County [ ] Local
DATE OF SURVEY:
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE: — CODE:

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Calvert
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

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CONDITION	(Check One)					
	[ ] Excellent	[X] Good	[ ] Fair	[ ] Deteriorated	[ ] Ruins	[ ] Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	[X] Altered	[ ] Unaltered	[ ] Moved	[X] Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Christ Church was erected in 1772 and, as it stands today, retains its colonial character and form. Subsequent renovations in 1792, 1838, 1862, 1882, 1906, 1928-29, 1946-50, and 1968 make it an interesting illustration of rural ecclesiastical architectural development. This section will describe first the church as it is today. Then, stepping back into history, it will give a possible description of the church as it appeared originally and after each important modification.

The church today is of brick construction; its exterior is covered with stucco. It has a sharply peaked roof with gables at the front and back, or the east and west ends of the church. The gables have scroll brackets. The sides of the church have five bays; each bay has double stained glass round headed windows. There are buttresses at the corners of the building. At the front there is a small exterior vestibule or entryway and a small belfry. At the northeast corner of the rear of the church there is a modern sacristy. The interior of the church is plastered and painted white. The nave has three aisles; the pews face the east end of the church where the altar is located except those at the front of the church on either side of the altar. Though rearranged, the pews are constructed with the materials of the early box pews; in fact, the doors of the original pews have been used as end pieces on the present ones, as witnessed by the existence in places of the old hardware and traces of it in others.

An earlier building, dating from 1672 or before, the exact location of which is unknown served the original parish and was probably simple log or frame construction. It was destroyed by fire in 1731 and replaced in 1735 by a brick church on the present site. It is not possible to describe this second church, but it had a separate vestry room built outside the main building, traces of the foundation of which can still be seen to the northeast of the present structure.

By 1769 this church was in need of repair and rebuilding, and construction of a new church on the same site using materials of the old was completed in 1772. Some of the old bricks from the 1735 building measure only 4" by 2" by 2". Perhaps because of the use of old bricks and bricks of differing sizes the exterior of the church was covered with a mortar slip or plaster. The 1772 church with modifications has remained in continuous use until today, a period of over 200 years.

The church was renovated in 1792 and again in 1838-39. From a description of the church before this latter renovation, it is clear that it had covered brick porches of the north and south sides and a center aisle running across the main axis of the church between the two porches. Entrance to the gallery, used exclusively by Blacks, was by steps outside

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(See continuation sheet No. 1)

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) 1772

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☒ Religion/Philosophy	☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	☐ Science	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	
☒ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Art	☐ Literature	☐ Theater	
☐ Commerce	☐ Military	☐ Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Music		
☐ Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Christ Church is significant both historically and architecturally, as the mother Episcopal Church of Calvert County and its oldest continually worshiping congregation and as a fine country church which retains its colonial character.

1672 is the usual date given for the founding of the parish; the Parish Register, which is still in existence, has an entry for that year recording the birth of Mary Myles on April 24. The Reverend John Yeo preached at Christ Church during the 70's, and it is probable that he was the first pastor. Mary Taney, wife of the sheriff of Calvert County and one of the forebearers of Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, and Francis Mauldin who donated the land for the first church, were among the leading citizens of Calvert County who were instrumental in the founding of the new church.

The Act of Establishment of 1692 not only established the Church of England as a state-supported religion, but specifically mentioned Christ Church Parish and defined its boundaries. These included all of what is now Calvert County south of Hunting Creek. From the earliest days the parish was so large as to be unwieldly. A chapel of ease, Middleham Chapel, a National Register nomination had been established, it is thought, in 1684. The new Act also authorized the freeholders, 537 "taxables" out of a total estimated population of about 1,600, to name six vestrymen for the parish. The six, all from families of historic importance in the county, were Captain Thomas Claggett, Henry Farnley, Samuel Hollingsworth, Francis Malden (or Mauldin), John Manning and Richard Smith. Under the Act the vestry was empowered to collect 40 pounds of tobacco from each "taxable" in the parish, whatever his religion, to support the church. Parson Weems, the celebrated biographer of George Washington, preached at Christ Church, and the Reverend Jonathan Cay, whose tombstone lies near the eastern wall of the church, was rector from 1715 to 1735.

The first confirmation service at Christ Church took place on May 4, 1974. Bishop Thomas J. Claggett, the first Bishop of Maryland and the first Episcopal bishop ordained in the United States, whose father had been rector of Christ

(See continuation Sheet No. 1)

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Calvert	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Christ Church

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

the south wall. In 1838-39, the brick porches were torn down; and the door at the west end became the principal entrance to the church. The side doors were replaced by bays of windows. As a result of these changes, the old box pews were rearranged into their present alignment. A partition was placed across the nave at the west end creating a vestibule in the center with a room at either side.

Although repairs were carried out in 1862 and 1882, a major reconstruction was required in 1906 to repair and rebuild the walls which had been seriously damaged by years of rainfall weakening their foundations. Portions of the walls were rebuilt using old brick where possible, abutments were added at the corners, and gutters with deep concrete foundations were put down at the base of all four walls.

Following repairs in 1928-29 and 1946-50 the sacristy was added in 1968. Space was gained for a choir by removing the upper portion of the 1838-39 wall at the rear of the church. Modern stained glass windows have replaced the old clear glass.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Church in 1748-49, conducted the service. The church survived the War of 1812 without serious injury and was finally consecrated in 1842, almost 200 years after its founding. Christ Church celebrated its 300th anniversary in 1972 and continues to be an important center of life in Calvert County.

The architectural significance derives from its evolution from the eighteenth century to the present. The Church encorporated the form and fabric associated with eighteenth century ecclesiastical tidewater architecture. The bell cot and buttresses are drawn from the Gothic Revival. The heavy scroll brackets, window treatment, and plaster covering of the brickwalls have nineteenth century sources, most particularly in domestic architecture; and the stained glass windows reflect the taste of the mid-twentieth century.

GPO 971-774

CT-40

05004-03208

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Calvert County
TOWN Port Republic VICINITY
STREET NO.

ORIGINAL OWNER Episcopal Parish
ORIGINAL USE Church
PRESENT OWNER Episcopal Parish
PRESENT USE Church
WALL CONSTRUCTION Flemish bond brick stuccoed over.
NO. OF STORIES 2

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY CT-40

2. NAME Christ Church

DATE OR PERIOD 1772
STYLE Altered Georgian Colonial
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION — OPEN TO PUBLIC Yes

This church was remodeled in 1906 into a nondescript Romanesque design. The fine brickwork was stuccoed over at this time and all the windows and the interior were changed. A water table and corner buttresses are visible through the stucco and appear to be old. The choir, or old slave gallery in the church, appear to be old, although the rest of the interior is Victorian in style.

This structure is beyond restoration and is only important as the historic site of one of the oldest parishes (1672) in in Calvert County.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered — Interior — Exterior

Altered

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Paul A. Brinkman

DATE OF RECORD July 10, 1967

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

CT-40

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fleming, John R. "The Story of Old Christ Church." 1972.
Inventory of Church Archives of Maryland. Maryland Records Survey Project, 1940.
Rightmyer, N.W. Maryland's Established Church. 1956.
_____. Parishes of the Diocese of Maryland. 1960.
Skirven, Percy S. First Parishes of the Province of Maryland. 1942.
(All sources are available at the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.)

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	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		38°	31'	43"	76°	29'	32"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William M. Plummer, Rector

ORGANIZATION: Christ Church Parish
DATE: April 3, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broome Island Road

CITY OR TOWN: Port Republic
STATE: Maryland
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: Arthur C. Townsend

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

_____
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

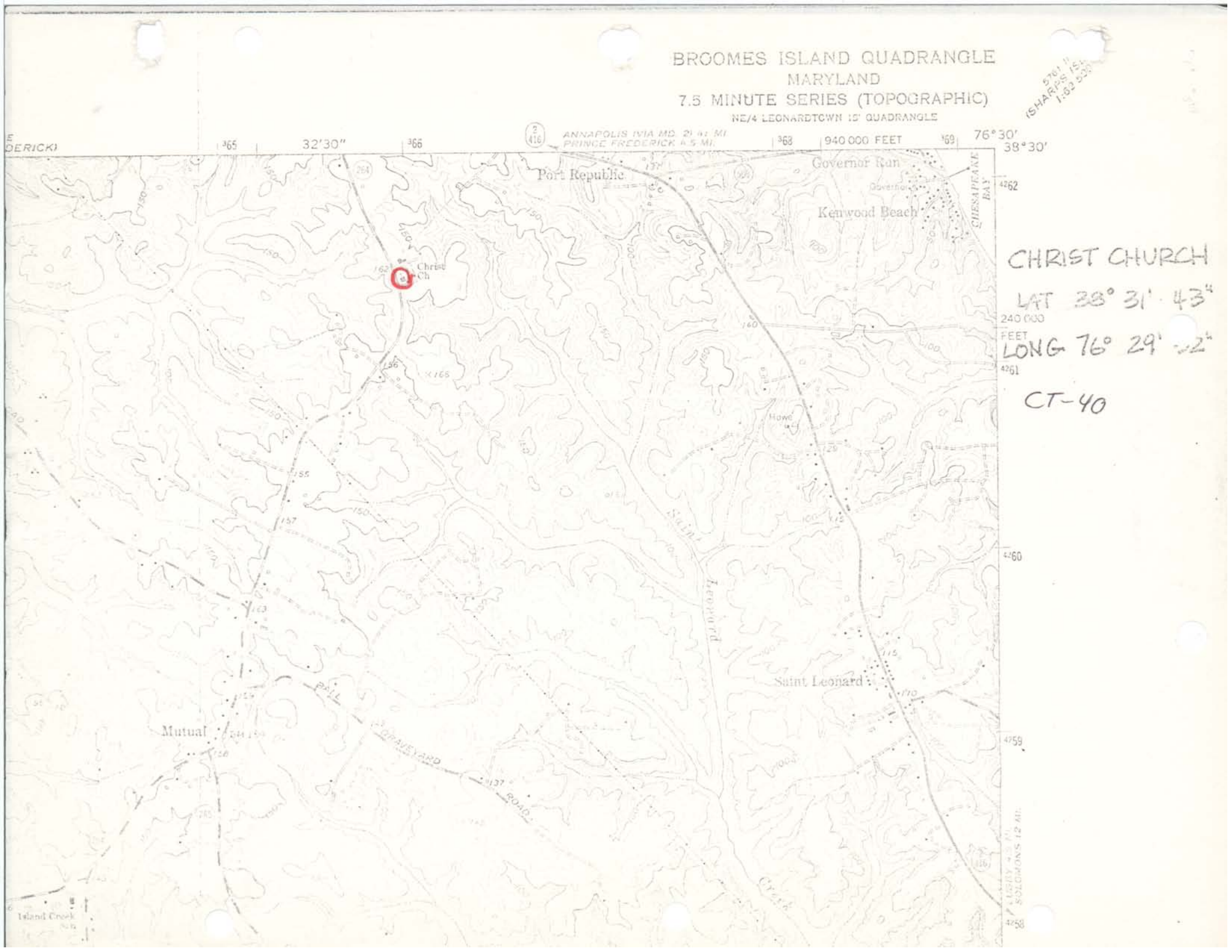
ATTEST:

_____
Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1973—729-147/1443 3-1



CHRIST CHURCH

LAT 38° 31' 43"

LONG 76° 29' 02"

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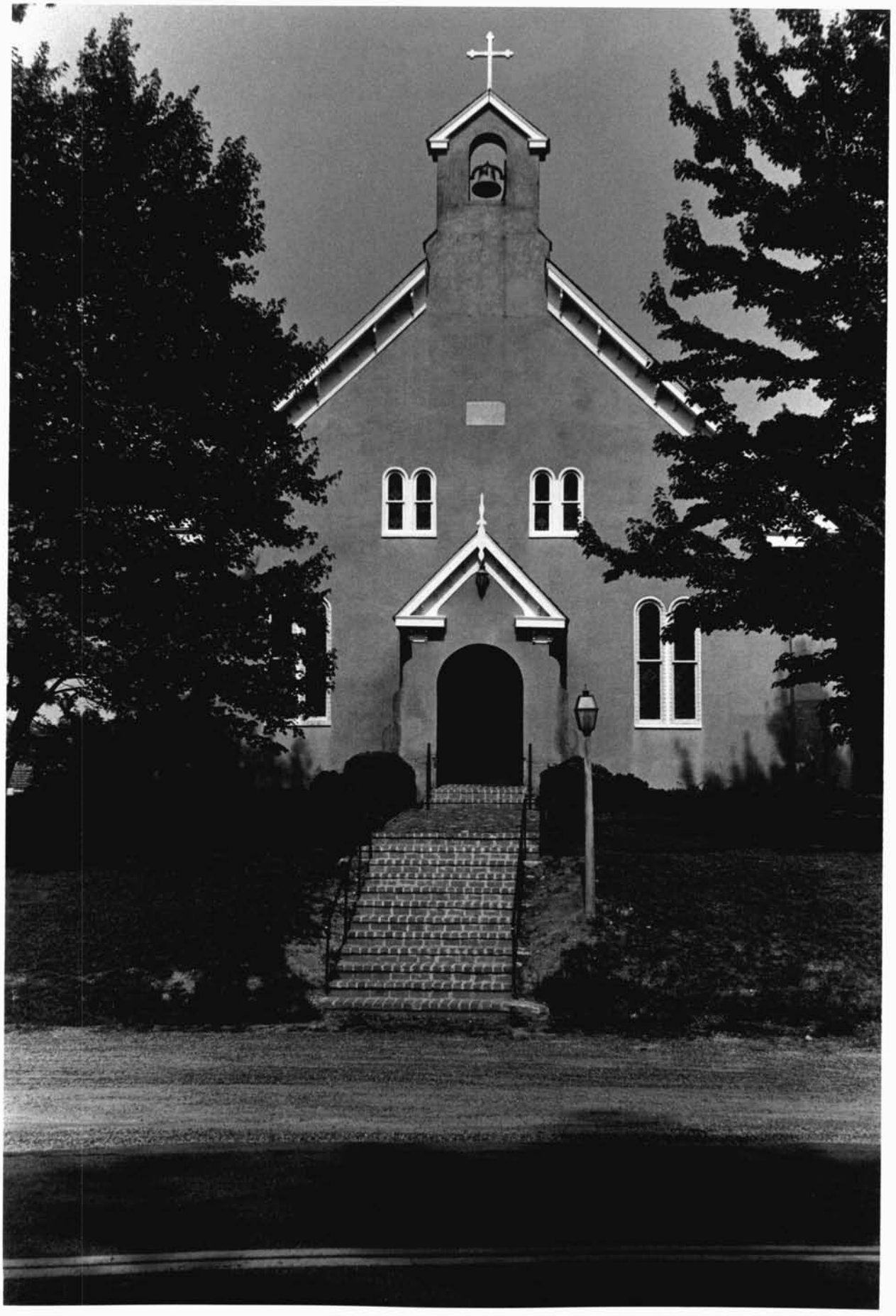

CHRIST CHURCH
CT-40

Photographed by
DANIEL C. CHURCH

CLVP-40

Christ Episcopal
Church
S.W.

Wayne Nield
Spring '77