

VLR-1/16/73 NRHP-4/11/73 260-1

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: FREDERICK	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON
ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
S corner of intersection of Rt. 1102 and Rt. 1105

CITY OR TOWN:
Middletown

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Frederick	CODE 069
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Being restored

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Town of Middletown

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Middletown	STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Winchester	STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

STATE: VIRGINIA	FOR NPS USE ONLY
COUNTY: FREDERICK	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

I. General Statement:

A. Architectural Character: St. Thomas is an example of a simple Gothic Revival church of the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

B. Condition of Fabric: Fair, but structurally sound. Under restoration.

II. Description of the Exterior:

A. Overall dimensions: The rectangular building, three bays wide and three bays long measures thirty feet by fifty feet and has a recessed chancel twenty feet by ten feet. A later shed addition is to the south of the chancel.

B. Foundations: Brick, stone under the addition.

C. Wall construction and finish: The wall is laid in five-course American bond both above and below the water table. The original buff colored scored stucco has peeled from the lower walls.

D. Openings:

1. Doorways and doors. The recessed main entrance in the form of a lancet arch features a lancet arched doorway with symmetrically molded trim and corner blocks. The transom with tri-part Gothic tracery fills the upper section of the arch. Double horizontally panelled doors open into the sanctuary, and an horizontally panelled door opens in each side of the vestibule formed by the recess. The doorway in the addition has a brick flat arch and an horizontally panelled door.

2. Windows: The lancet-arched side windows are double hung mullion windows with a transom of tri-part Gothic mullions. The transom is filled with a more delicate tracery of intersecting lancet arches. The lancet mullion window in the transom has a tri-part Gothic transom.

E. Roof: The building has a stepped gable roof. The finial at the end of each step was originally capped by a squat spire. A square frame belfry with pyramidal roof supports a simple Latin cross. The original belfry was much taller, featured lancet arches and was topped by an hexagonal cupola with a large Latin cross.

III. Description of the Interior:

A. Floor plan: The rectangular plan has a recessed chancel at the east end. A small vesting room opens at the south side of the chancel.

B. Wall and ceiling finish: Wide brown painted lines suggest panels on the plaster walls.

C. Doorways and doors: The west doorway with plain trim leads to the exterior and otherwise resembles the exterior door and doorway.

D. Trim: The windows have symmetrically molded trim with corner blocks and rosettes. The remainder of the trim is very simple.

E. Heating: None.

F. Accoutrements: The communion rail with turned supports, the carved baptismal font, the pulpit with incised trefoils and the simple lectern all appear to be of the late nineteenth century. The simple pews have straight backs and a panelled side facing the aisle.

IV. Site and orientation: St. Thomas has the typical Church of England/ Episcopal church orientation with the altar and the chancel in the east and the primary entrance in the west. The church is set on the crest of a gentle hill overlooking Middletown.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>local history</u> |
| <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

St. Thomas Episcopal Church stands as a picturesque example of the Early Gothic Revival in Virginia. Its congregation was established in Middletown, Frederick County, in 1834 and the church building was completed three or four years later. St. Thomas was the seventh Episcopal Church in the former Frederick County area (divided into three counties: Frederick, Clarke and Warren in 1836). Since its completion, the simple but dignified Gothic Revival edifice has been a prominent architectural landmark for the town and surrounding countryside.

In 1834 William S. Jones, Anderton Brown, George Lynn, Jr., David S. Danner and J. Smith Davidson were chosen from a group of Episcopal parishioners in the Middletown area as trustees for the new church. Its site was a fourth acre lot (No. 98 in the original plot of Middletown) and was purchased for fifty dollars. The cost of erecting the church was raised by subscription of the proposed congregation. St. Thomas bears a resemblance to Leeds Church in Markham, Virginia, which the trustees visited when they were considering a plan for their new church. The building is known to have been completed in April, 1837, when Bishop Meade officiated at confirmation there.

During the War Between the States, the church building was used as a hospital for Confederate wounded and as a stable by Federal troops. After the War, the Federal government paid for some of the damage inflicted. These and other contributions enabled the church to be reopened in 1867.

St. Thomas continued as an Episcopal Church with an occasional congregation of about 30 until shortly after the First World War. Sunday School sessions were held there until 1930, when the building became considered unsafe and was closed. St. Thomas Church remained under the control of the Richmond Diocese for many years and was later transferred to Christ Church in Winchester. In 1966, it was given to the town of Middletown for use "as a chapel, museum or for any good moral purpose." The church currently is being restored for use as an interdenominational chapel.

G.H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Shipe, W.F., St. Thomas Episcopal Church Middletown, Virginia, unpublished manuscript.

VHLC files.

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	° ' "	° ' "		39° 01' 39"	78° 16' 40"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than ten acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION STAFF

ORGANIZATION: VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION DATE: JANUARY, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

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 _____

Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director

Title Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

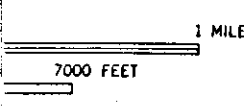
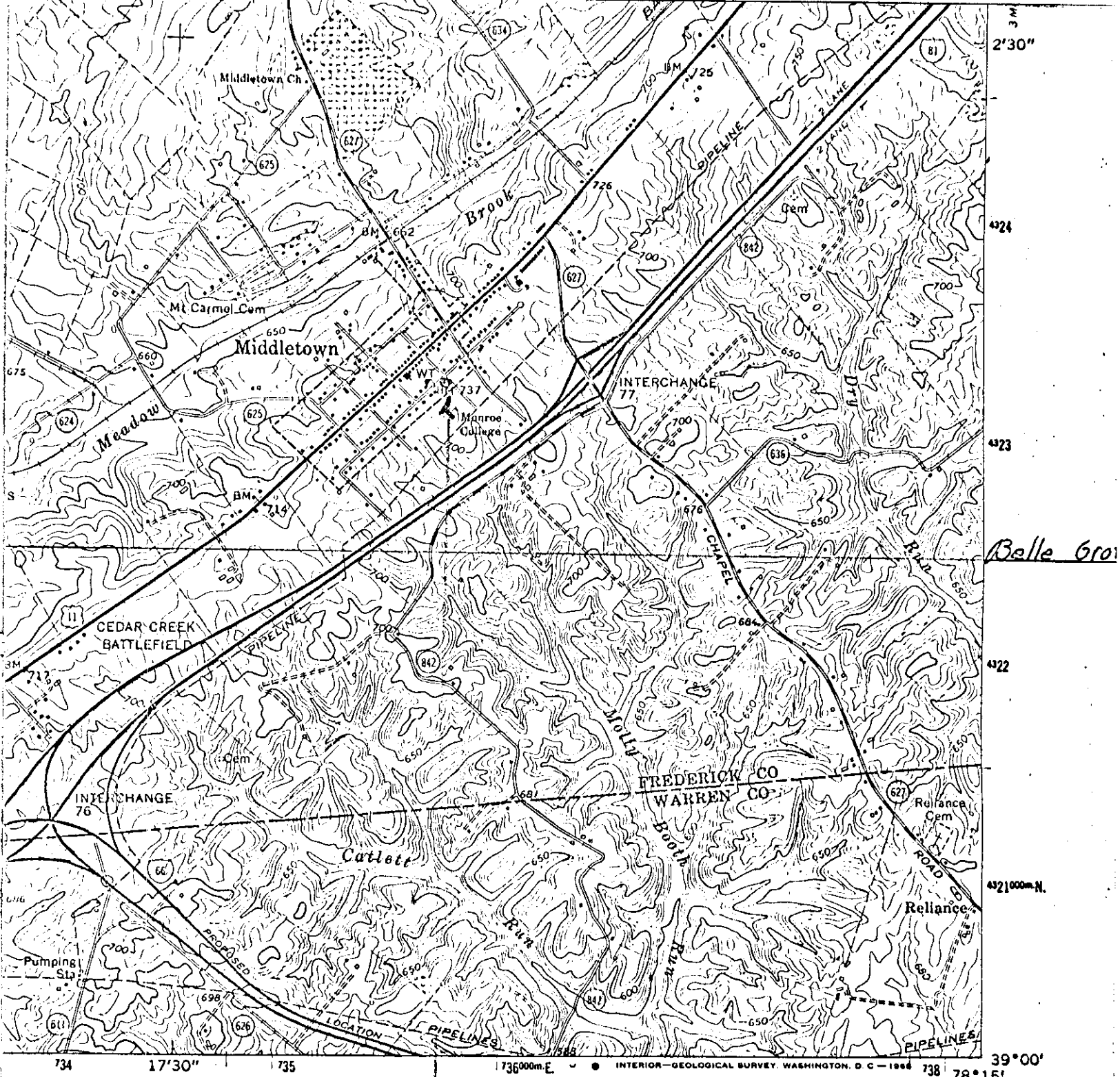
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle Middletown, Va.
 scale:1:24,000 1966

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

latitude 39°01'39"
 longitude 78°16'40"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty Light-duty
 Medium-duty Unimproved dirt
 Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

MIDDLETOWN, VA.
 SE/4 MIDDLETOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3900—W7815/7.5

1966

AMS 5362 III SE—SERIES V834

(FRONT ROYAL
 551 NW)