



PENNSYLVANIA TO VALLEY

4440
290 000
FEET

4439

4438

4437

6 MI. TO INT
NEW JERSEY TO

(VALLEY FORGE) 435
5964 III SW

Zone 18
455160
4435220

ST. PETER'S CHURCH
Chester County

ZONE: 18 455 160 4435 220

4437923

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

24

**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. Peter's Church in the Great Valley

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

St. Peter's Church Road off Rt. 423

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

East Whiteland

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Chester

CODE

029

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"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Vestry - St. Peter's Church

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 334

CITY, TOWN

Paoli

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania 19301

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Chester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

High & Market Streets

CITY, TOWN

West Chester

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1976

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg,

STATE

Pennsylvania

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

St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley was built by members of the congregation over a period of 16 years. When completed in 1744 the church was 47 feet long and 28 feet wide with a small sacristy projection on the north side. The building was constructed of stone and has a medium pitch gable roof. The simple box cornice has short returns on the gable ends. The main entrance was a double door on the south side of the building. Above the door was a large fan light in a sunburst design. A large round head multipane window was located in the east gable. The remaining windows were of similar designed multipaned sash with cutstone lintels and arches. The interior consisted of one large room with a floor of cut stone blocks. There were no interior appointments until 1749 when 32 high backed pews were installed. The altar, reading desk and pulpit were installed in 1750. A small gallery was also added to the west wall at this time.

The building underwent a series of alterations and additions with major work being done in 1830 and 1856. In 1830 the interior was plastered and the altar arrangement placed in the east corner. The windows were also replaced with large rectangular sash. In 1856 a 2 story addition was added to the east gable and the entire building was pebble-dashed and whitewashed. Finally in 1901 a 1½ story addition (Parish House) was added to the east side at a right angle to the main structure.

An extensive restoration program was carried out in the 1940's under R. Brognard Okie. All windows were returned to their original roundarch appearance and the interior appointments returned to their late 18th century appearance.

The present church even with its accumulations preserves much of its original appearance and setting. The 18th century stone wall still surrounds the church and its old graveyard. The building and grounds are in good condition and well maintained.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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 1744

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The people of the Welsh Barony, who felt the need of religious instruction, were spread out over a large territory, those who later founded St. Peter's being on the northwestern edge of the 'wilderness'. They had belonged to the Church of England in their native land, and sought the services of a Missionary who could minister to them in Welsh, and at least once a month administer the Sacrament.

Tradition tells that a log Chapel, south of Reeseville (the present Berwyn) served also as a blockhouse, for they were in constant fear of Indian attacks and was used by the people of the entire Barony. This was destroyed by fire so that for a while religious gatherings were probably held in individual farm homes. In 1715, the dwellers in the southeast end of the Barony built a fine stone Church (St. David's, Radnor), while those in the opposite corner built a log Church, in all probability in the immediate neighborhood of the present stone structure.

St. Peter's Church completed in 1744, is a good example of colonial church architecture. It's simple yet elegant appearance are still preserved in their original setting.

During the Revolutionary War, the church was used as an army hospital by both the British and American forces. Those who died here were buried along the west wall of the cemetery.