

PH002 6298

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: | St. Mary's |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY DATE | OCT 3 1973 |

1. NAME
COMMON:
St. George's Protestant Episcopal Church
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Poplar Hill

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: **W of Valley Lee**
CITY OR TOWN: **South side of Md. Route 244, 1/2 mile west from intersection of**
STATE: **Md.** CODE: **24** COUNTY: **St. Mary's** CODE: **037**

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input 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)

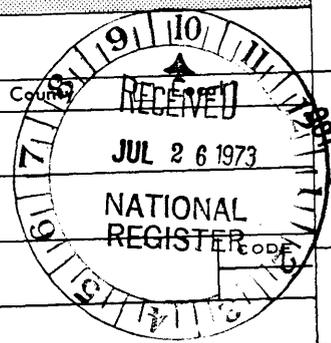
| | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
Vestry of William and Mary Parish
STREET AND NUMBER:
Maryland Route 244
CITY OR TOWN: **Valley Lee** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
St. Mary's County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington Street
CITY OR TOWN: **Leonardtwn** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: St. Mary's
ENTRY NUMBER: 491
DATE: 10/3/73
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 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

St. George's Church (Poplar Hill) is situated on the south side of Maryland Route 244, 1/2 mile from the intersection of Maryland Routes 244 and 249 at Valley Lee.

The existing St. George's church was built in 1799 and it is the fourth to serve the William and Mary Parish. Of the three buildings which preceded the present structure two were built on this same site, one about 1692 and another about 1760; the original, circa 1638-1642 structure, stood about fifty feet north.

A pleasing example of rural Southern Maryland, late eighteenth century ecclesiastical architecture, the recently restored church is attractively situated within the boundaries of an old interesting cemetery. Both the cemetery and church are shaded by numerous large oak trees--several of these predating the first building.

St. George's is a rectangular, gable roofed, Flemish bond brick structure, five bays in length at both side elevations. The facade is at the west end and is three bays in width. All of the exterior detail, including the molded architraves and denticulated eave cornices, appear to be a combination of late nineteenth century and restoration period (1958) replacements of the originals. However, the window frames themselves may be original. The only alteration to the exterior appears to be the filling in of a centered door on both side elevations and the introduction of sash windows in their place.

The vestry records of the church document major renovations to the interior in 1884. Initially the floor plan involved two side aisles as well as a centered cross aisle. At the rear, west end, of the church was a slave gallery ascended by a single stair in the southwest corner of the first floor level. In 1884 the two exterior doors affording access to the cross aisle were removed and, as previously stated, windows were installed in their place. The gallery and stair were removed, as was the pulpit, communion table, pew doors, and apparently the floors, as well as most of the interior moldings. At this time a new vestry room was built on the east end and pictorial stained glass windows installed in place of the original, double hung sash.

In 1958 the building had deteriorated to such an extent that most of the interior work had to be replaced. With the exception of replacing the wood floor with brick, the interior has been largely restored to its 1884 appearance. The old pews are art that remain from the 1799 interior. It was also in 1958 that the 1884 vestry room was removed and replaced by a more substantial wing containing the sacristy.

(See continuation sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet) 1

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| STATE | |
| Maryland | |
| COUNTY | |
| St. Mary's | |
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| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | OCT 9 1973 |

(Number all entries)
7

During the renovation four ancient grave stones were removed from the church yard and installed in the new brick floor. Three of these stones formerly lay in the floor of several of the earlier buildings. The earliest stone is dated 1679 and marked the grave of the Rev. Francis Stouton, the second rector of the church. It was discovered in 1886 at a depth of twenty inches below the ground beneath the chancel floor. The slate stone is a unique survival in St. Mary's County; the epitaph is inscribed in Latin and the stone is further embellished with Stouton's armorial bearings. The other stones date from 1701, 1733, and 1806.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

Although the interior of St. George's has been extensively altered from its original appearance the exterior remains largely the same. The aesthetically pleasing setting of this charming building draws numerous visitors to this site throughout the year and it is perhaps one of the best known Protestant churches in Southern Maryland.

When first established in Poplar Hill Hundred lay readers conducted the weekly services. In 1650 the Reverend William Wilkinson became the first rector; it is reputed that Wilkinson was, in fact, the first Anglican minister in Maryland.

Although another Anglican church was erected for Poplar Hill Hundred about two years before the first church at this site, its location was inconvenient to many parishoners and it was soon moved to St. Mary's City. It is therefore generally believed that St. George's is the site of the oldest Anglican church in Maryland whose parish is still in existance.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rejuvenates and Rejoices, an article in the Washington Dioscene Magazine; Washington, D.C., May, 1959.

St. George's Episcopal Church, a privately published brochure by St. George's Parish, Valley Lee, Maryland; n.d.

Admiral Felix Johnson, U.S.N. (ret.), 1968, Maryland Historical Trust survey files, 2525 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland.

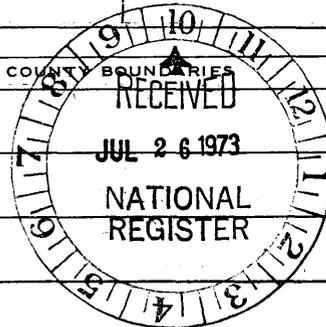
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| 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 ° 11 ' 47 " | 76 ° 31 ' 23 " | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |
| NE | 38 ° 11 ' 47 " | 76 ° 31 ' 11 " | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |
| SE | 38 ° 11 ' 37 " | 76 ° 31 ' 11 " | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |
| SW | 38 ° 11 ' 37 " | 76 ° 31 ' 22 " | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **23**

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 |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: J. Richard Rivoire, Field Surveyor sdh

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: June 7, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis, 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 Orlando Ridout IV
Orlando Ridout IV

Title _____
State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/3/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 9/20/73