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Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	
Virginia	
COUNTY:	
Westmoreland	
FOR NPS USE O	NLY
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	AND/OR HISTORIC:						1		
	Yeocomico Church						ļ		
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7.	DESCRIPTION									
	COMPLETION	(Check One)								
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Х

The present Yeocomico Church is a most extraordinary structure recalling numerous architectural forms and trends yet retaining about it an almost artless quality. \ Laid out in the shape of an irregular T, the church is covered by a steep gable roof with a pronounced splay at the eaves of not only all three gables but in the roof of the porch as well. The overall dimensions of the church, excluding the porch, are 50'-8" north-to-south and 51'-4" east-to-west. The modillion cornice is not the original but is probably quite similar to it. The ends of the cornice sections at all three gables as well as the porch are marked by corbelled bricks, all of which are replacements. \ The brick bond throughout the building is quite varied and in some places laid in no regular order.\

The porch is generally in Flemish bond with a fine diaper pattern above the unusual superimposed semicircular arches over the porch door. Inset above the arches are the initials "SCM" with a Scottish thistle below them. On the wall of the church inside the porch are crude half-round Doric columns of brick inset in the wall. The columns flank the famous wicket door, a large Tudor battened door with a separate smaller door set in it.

The brickwork along the remainder of the south wall is Flemish bond with glazed headers on either side of the porch which trails off into English bond and irregular bond in the remaining portions. Above the arch of the small door on this wall is a brick carved "R. L.", and inset high on the south wall near the southeast corner is "1706 IGI" with an English rose below the "G". A line in the brickwork between the double window and the small door to the east on the south wall may indicate that the east wing was a later extension. Both the east and west gable ends are laid in English bond while the north gable is generally Flemish with a belt course below the large gable windows. Below the circular window on the east gable end are the initials of eight vestrymen or workmen: "IB - IS - WL - IS - IC - IT - AD - TB". The brick bomds of the remaining walls are quite varied.

Surrounding the entire building is a low English bond ovolo water table most of which is hidden because of the changes of ground level.

Except for the round window high in the east gable end and the small double hung window on the north side of the east wing, the windows throughout the building are large double windows. The windows appear to be set in enlargements of the original openings as none have any sort of masonry arches above them. Most of the fabric of these windows seems to be early-nineteenth century, probably installed at the time the building was reoccupied.

The complex shape of the church results in an unusual interior arrangement. The altar is located in the east wing, but the nave is in the north wing, with the pulpit and choir along the south wall. There were galleries in the ends of both the north and west wings, but only the north gallery survives, retaining most of its original fabric including the balustrade. With the exception of the reading desk, which may be composed of part of the original pulpit, the gallery, and some of the exposed chamfered beams, all of the remaining woodwork including the pews is of either

SIGNIFICANCE			m (1, 988 , 1984, 1958 				
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15th Century		17th Centu	ry 🗌	19th Centu	ry 🗌		
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If A	pplicable a	and Known)					
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Conservation		Military		Theater			
		Music		Transportation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Yeocomico Church, the only surviving colonial church in Westmoreland County, is situated in Cople Parish which was formed in 1662 from the lower part of Nominy Parish. Its name was derived from an English parish where some of the early settlers of the area supposedly originated. The church itself took its name from the nearby Yeocomico River which in turn derived its name from a local Indian tribe.

The first church on the present site was a frame structure erected around 1655 as a chapel of ease for Chicacone Parish, then part of Northumberland County. It has generally been assumed that the inscription "1706 IGI" located high on the south wall of the present church signifies the erection date of the existing building. However, because of the highly irregular form of the structure and the great variety of different brickwork patterns, it is very difficult to determine whether the church was completed in its present general form by 1706 or evolved into its present form by alterations and additions occurring from the late-seventeenth century to the early-twentieth century.)

Despite the obscurity of its architectural history, this perplexing but charming building remains one of the most unusual colonial churches in America. \ Its blend of medieval and classical architectural features makes it significant as a transitional colonial structure. The medieval-style wicket door, the only such door surviving in America, flanked by Doric pilasters is only one illustration of this mixture of stylistic influences.

Like nearly every Virginia colonial church, Yeocomico underwent difficult times in the years following the Revolution. It is said that during the Revolution itself the church was used as a barracks. It was deserted after the Disestablishment and by the War of 1812 had fallen into great decay. An American patrol used it as shelter during that war, and they were reputed to have made some minor repairs to the structure. The Methodists assumed occupancy of the church after the war, but the Episcopalians were able to reclaim it by 1844. During the Civil War the building was once again used to quarter soldiers, this time the Confederate Home Guard. Since that time Yeocomico has enjoyed the placid existence of a rural Episcopal church although it received a major renovation in 1906 and further repairs in 1928 and again in 1958-59.

Y MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES											
Rawli	Rawlings, James Scott, <u>Virginia's Colonial Churches</u> : <u>An Architectural Guide</u> .										
Ric	Richmond: 1963, pp. 50-58.										
Rose,	, Harold Wi 53, pp. 504	ckliff	e, <u>The</u>	Colc	onial	Ho	uses of Worsh	nip in	America	<u>a</u> . Nev	v York:
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Room 1	.116, Ninth	Stree	t Stat	e Off	Eice B	ui	lding				÷,
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Form 10-300a (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Westmoreland	
FOR NPS USE C	NLY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69.45 0102	11/12/69

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number	r all entries)		7.7
7.	nineteenth-or twentieth-century origin. Amazingly	the church	n possesses
	its original Jacobean-style holy table and octagona	1 marble i	font.

Fortunately, Yeocomico's rural setting has been little changed although a modern cemetery has been located just outside the churchyard walls to the north.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A1619-DOS

APR 1 3 1970

Memorandum

To:

Secretary of the Interior

Through: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife,

Parks, and Marine Resources

Acting

From:

Director, National Park Service

Subject:

National Historic Landmark recommendations, 61st meeting

of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites,

Buildings and Monuments

Enclosed herewith is the memorandum of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments summarizing its findings and recommendations on the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings partial theme study of "Colonial Architecture." This memorandum makes two principal recommendations: (1) That 77 sites encompassed by this study be declared eligible for National Historic Landmark status. These are listed under Sections A, B, C, and D of the memorandum; (2) That 41 of these sites be given further consideration in long range plans for addition to the National Park System.

We recommend that you approve the Advisory Board's memorandum, and that it be returned to this office to become a part of the permanent record of actions recommended by the Board and approved by you.

Harthon L. Porce

Enclosure

Approved:

APR 1 5 1970

Secretary of the Interior



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

October 8, 1969

Memorandum

To:

Secretary of the Interior

From:

Chairman, Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites,

Buildings, and Monuments

Subject

National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings: Partial

study of "Colonial Architecture" comprising sites in

eighteen States and the District of Columbia

The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments, at its 61st meeting in Washington, D. C., October 6-9, 1969, having carefully evaluated the partial study of "Colonial Architecture," submits the following statements with recommendations:

A. Of the sites included in the study, the following are recognized as nationally significant in illustrating or commemorating the history of the United States, and it is recommended that they be declared eligible for designation as Registered National Historic Landmarks with boundaries, as appropriate, described in attachments:

Alaska

- 1. Church of the Holy Ascension, Unalaska
- 2. Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Kenai

California

- 3. Anza House
- 4. Jose Castro House
- 5. Estudillo House
- 6. Fort Ross Commander's House
- 7. Fort Ross Russian Orthodox Church
- 8. Guajome Ranchhouse
- 9. Los Alamos Ranchhouse
- 10. Los Cerritos Ranchhouse
- 11. Monterey Old Town Historic District
- 12. Petaluma Adobe
- 13. San Diego Mission Church
- 14. San Juan Bautista Plaza Historic District
- 15. San Luis Rey Mission Church
- 16. Vhay House

Delaware

17. Aspendale

Florida

- 18. Llambias House
- 19. Oldest House
- 20. St. Augustine Town Plan Historic District

Illinois

- 21. Church of the Holy Family
- 22. Pierre Menard House

Louisiana

- 23. Keller (Homeplace) Plantation House
- 24. Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop
- 25. Mayor Girod House
- 26. Madame John's Legacy
- 27. Parlange Plantation House
- 28. Presbytere

Maryland

- 29. Brice House
- 30. Chase-Lloyd House
- 31. Chestertown Historic District
- 32. His Lordship's Kindness
- 33. London Town Publik House
- 34. Montpelier
- 35. Mount Clare
- 36. Resurrection Manor
- 37. Tulip Hill
- 38. West St. Mary's Manor
- 39. Wye House

Missouri

40. Louis Bolduc House

New Mexico

- 41. San Estevan del Rey Mission Church
- 42. San Francisco de Assissi Mission Church
- 43. San Jose de Gracia Church

North Carolina

- 44. Chowan County Courthouse
- 45. Cupola House
- 46. Palmer-Marsh House
- 47. Single Brothers' House

South Carolina

- 48. Brick House Ruin
- 49. William Gibbes House
- 50. Hampton Plantation
- 51. Heyward-Washington House
- 52. Middleburg Plantation
- 53. Pompion Hill Chapel
- 54. St. James' Episcopal Church, Goose Creek
- 55. St. James' Episcopal Church, Santee
- 56. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Texas

- 57. Mission Concepcion
- 58. Spanish Governor's Palace

<u>Virginia</u>

- 59. Brandon
- 60. Bruton Parish Church
- 61. Carter's Grove
- 62. Christ Church, Alexandria
- 63. Kenmore
- 64. Sabine Hall
- 65. James Semple House
- 66. Shirley
- 67. Waterford Historic District
- 68. Wythe House
- 69. Yeocomico Church

Washington

- 70. Fort Nisqually Granary
- B. Three sites included in the portion of Colonial Architecture that considered the Middle Colonies are recognized as nationally significant and it is recommended that they be declared as Registered National Historic Landmarks:
 - 1. William Trent House, New Jersey
 - 2. Christ Church, Pennsylvania
 - 3. Carpenters' Hall, Pennsylvania
- C. Two sites included in this study are recognized as nationally significant in Theme IV, "Spanish Exploration and Settlement." It is recommended that they be declared eligible for recognition as Registered National Historic Landmarks:
 - 1. La Purisima Mission, California
 - 2. Cathedral of St. Augustine, Florida
- D. Two sites not originally included within this study are recommended for designation as National Historic Landmarks within Theme XX, Subtheme, "Architecture."
 - 1. El Santuario de Chimayo, New Mexico
 - 2. Peyton Randolph House, Virginia
- E. Other Recommendations:
- 1. That the following sites be placed in the category of "Other Sites Considered:"

California

- (1) Avila House
- (2) La Casa de Cota de la Cuesta
- (3) La Casa de Eduardo de la Cuesta
- (4) Covarrubias Adobe
- (5) De La Guerra Adobe
- (6) El Cuartel
- (7) Guadalupe (Olivera) Ranch House No. 1
- (8) Hill-Carrillo Adobe
- (9) Ortega House

- (10) Plaza Church
- (11) Rocha House
- (12) San Diego Old Town Historic District
- (13) San Juan Capistrano Mission Church

District of Columbia

(14) Alva Belmont House

Illinois

- (15) Cahokia Courthouse
- (16) Cahokia Historic District

Louisiana

- (17) Darby Plantation House
- (18) Ormond Plantation

Maryland

- (19) Emmanuel Protestant Episcopal Church
- (20) Genesar
- (21) Hammond Manor House
- (22) Kilmarock (Burleane Hall)
- (23) Ogle Hall
- (24) Otterbein Church
- (25) Patuxent Manor House
- (26) St. John's Episcopal Church, Broad Creek
- (27) St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kent County
- (28) Talbot County Court House
- (29) Third Haven Meeting House
- (30) Trinity Episcopal Church, Dorchester County

Missouri

(31) Jean Baptiste Valle House

New Mexico

(32) San Geronimo de Taos Mission Church

North Carolina

- (33) Bath Historic District
- (34) St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Edenton
- (35) St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Bath
- (36) Tryon Palace, Original (West) Wing

South Carolina

- (37) Branford-Horry House
- (38) Fenwick Hall
- (39) Medway Plantation
- (40) Thomas Rose House
- (41) Col. John Stuart House
- (42) Sword Gate House

Virginia

- (43) Berkeley Plantation
- (44) Brafferton Hall, College of William and Mary
- (45) The Glebe House
- (46) Noland's Ferry House
- (47) Pohick Church
- (48) President's House, College of William and Mary
- (49) Smithfield Plantation
- (50) Tazewell House

West Virginia

- (51) Crane (Lord Fairfax) House
- (52) Mordington (Happy Retreat)
- (53) Governor Tiffin House
- 2. That the following sites be given further study under this theme:

California

- (1) Olivas Adobe
- (2) San Gabriel Mission Church

Colorado

(3) Baca House

Connecticut

(4) Hatheway House

Delaware

- (5) Christ Church, Laurel
- (6) Prince George's Chapel

Florida

(7) Spanish Treasurer's House

Louisiana

- (8) African House, Melrose Plantation
- (9) Creole Cottage
- (10) Louis Arceneaux House
- (11) E. D. White Memorial Cottage
- (12) Voisin Plantation House
- (13) Spanish Custom House
- (14) Erariste Blanc House
- (15) Montegut House
- (16) Bank of the United States
- (17) Absinthe House
- (18) Cathedral of St. Louis

Maryland

- (19) Carroll Mansion
- (20) Providence Plantation
- (21) Queen Anne's County Courthouse
- (22) Horatio Sharp (Rideout) House
- (23) Scott House
- (24) St. John's Episcopal Church, Hillsboro
- (25) St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Church Hill
- (26) St. Luke's Episcopal Church or Tuckahoe Chapel, Queenstown
- (27) Old Wye Church
- (28) Doughoregan Manor

New Mexico - Florida

- (29) Pascual Martinez Ranch House
- (30) Santa Fe and Albuquerque and Pensacola town plans

North Carolina

- (31) Breezeway type of Colonial House
- (32) Edenton Historic District
- (33) Hayes Plantation House
- (34) Sycamore Plantation

South Carolina

- (35) Edward's House
- (36) Edisto Hall

Virginia

- (37) Battersea
- (38) Blandfield
- (39) Carlyle House
- (40) Dulaney House
- (41) Elmwood
- (42) Hanover Tavern
- (43) Hanover Courthouse
- (44) King William Courthouse
- (45) Long Bridge Ordinary
- (46) Marmion
- (47) Powhatan Courthouse
- (48) Powhatan Tavern
- (49) Three-story wooden row houses, south side of 200 block of Prince Street in Alexandria
- (50) Smithfield Courthouse
- (51) Washington Historic District
- (52) Wetherburn's Tavern
- (53) Fincastle Historic District

West Virginia

- (54) Harewood
- (55) Sweet Springs
- F. The National Park System includes the following structures that are Importantly Related to this study:
 - 1. Tumacacori National Monument, Arizona
 - 2. Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, Florida
 - 3. Fort Matanzas National Monument, Florida

- 4. Hampton National Historic Site, Maryland
- 5. Nelson House, Colonial National Historical Park, Virginia
- 6. San Jose Mission Church, Texas
- G. Forty-eight sites related to this theme have been classified as possessing national significance in other theme studies. These are:

Importantly Related to Colonial Architecture

- 1. Russian Mission Orphanage, Alaska
- 2. San Xavier del Bac Mission Church, Arizona
- 3. Carmel Mission Church, California
- 4. Larkin House, California
- 5. Old Custom House, California
- 6. Royal Presidio Chapel, California
- 7. Santa Barbara Mission Church, California
- 8. Sonoma Pueblo Historic District, California (with boundaries enlarged and defined in the attachments)
- 9. Savannah Historic District, Georgia
- 10. The Cabildo, Louisiana
- 11. Ursuline Convent, Louisiana
- 12. Vieux Carre Historic District, Louisiana
- 13. Jackson Square, Louisiana
- 14. Colonial Annapolis Historic District, Maryland
- 15. Hammond-Harwood House, Maryland
- 16. Maryland State House, Maryland
- 17. Whitehall, Maryland
- 18. Ste. Genevieve Historic District, Missouri
- 19. Palace of the Governors, New Mexico
- 20. Old Salem Historic District, North Carolina
- 21. Miles Brewton House, South Carolina
- 22. Robert Brewton House, South Carolina
- 23. Charleston Historic District, South Carolina (with boundaries enlarged and defined in the attachments)
- 24. Drayton Hall, South Carolina
- 25. Mulberry Plantation, South Carolina
- 26. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, South Carolina
- 27. Presidio de La Bahia, Texas
- 28. Alexandria Historic District, Virginia
- 29. Bacon's Castle, Virginia
- 30. Christ Church, Lancaster County, Virginia

- 31. Colonial Williamsburg Historic District, Virginia
- 32. Gadsby's Tavern, Virginia
- 33. Gunston Hall, Virginia
- 34. Mount Airy, Virginia
- 35. Mount Vernon, Virginia
- 36. St. Luke's Church, Virginia
- 37. Stratford Hall, Virginia
- 38. Adam Thoroughgood House, Virginia
- 39. Tuckahoe Plantation, Virginia
- 40. Westover, Virginia
- 41. Wren Building, College of William and Mary, Virginia

Also Related to Colonial Architecture

- 42. Erskine House, Alaska
- 43. St. Michael's Cathedral, Alaska
- 44. Commandant's House, Presidio of San Francisco, California
- 45. Las Trampas Plaza Historic District, New Mexico
- 46. Salem Tavern, Old Salem, North Carolina
- 47. The Alamo, Texas
- 48. Rising Sun Tavern, Virginia
- H. The Board recommends that the Old State (Colony) House in Newport, Rhode Island, a Landmark previously placed in the category of Also Related to Colonial Architecture, be noted as being Importantly Related to Colonial Architecture.
- I. The following sites are judged of such prime significance as to merit further study for possible addition to the National Park System. It is recognized that many, such as Colonial Williamsburg, are being adequately preserved at present and are not available. Because unforeseen contingencies may change present circumstances, such sites should nevertheless be identified as potential units of the system and noted for long-range consideration in the evolution of the National Park System Plan.
 - 1. Russian Mission Orphanage, Alaska
 - 2. San Xavier del Bac Mission Church, Arizona
 - 3. Fort Ross, California
 - 4. Guajome Ranchhouse, California
 - 5. Los Alamos Ranchhouse, California
 - 6. Monterey Old Town Historic District, California

- 7. Petaluma Adobe, California
- 8. Royal Presidio Chapel, California
- 9. Santa Barbara Mission Church, California
- 10. Church of the Holy Family, Illinois
- 11. Parlange Plantation House, Louisiana
- 12. Vieux Carre Historic District, Louisiana
- 13. Colonial Annapolis Historic District, Maryland
- 14. Resurrection Manor, Maryland
- 15. Tulip Hill, Maryland
- 16. Whitehall, Maryland
- 17. Wye House, Maryland
- 18. Ste. Genevieve Historic District, Missouri
- 19. San Estevan del Rey Mission Church (Acoma), New Mexico
- 20. San Jose de Gracia Church (Las Trampas), New Mexico
- 21. Old Salem Historic District, North Carolina
- 22. Charleston Historic District, South Carolina
- 23. Drayton Hall, South Carolina
- 24. Mulberry Plantation, South Carolina
- 25. St. James Episcopal Church, Goose Creek, South Carolina
- 26. St. James Episcopal Church, Santee, South Carolina
- 27. Mission Concepcion (San Antonio Missions Park Proposal), Texas
- 28. Presidio de la Bahia (Goliad Complex), Texas
- 29. Alexandria Historic District, Virginia
- 30. Brandon, Virginia
- 31. Bacon's Castle, Virginia
- 32. Christ Church, Lancaster County, Virginia
- 33. Colonial Williamsburg Historic District, Virginia
- 34. Gunston Hall, Virginia
- 35. Mount Airy, Virginia
- 36. Mount Vernon, Virginia
- 37. St. Luke's Church, Virginia
- 38. Shirley, Virginia
- 39. Stratford Hall, Virginia
- 40. Adam Thoroughgood House, Virginia
- 41. Westover, Virginia

Concellerance Emil W. Haury

Approved: APR 1 5 1970

Secretary of the Interior