

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

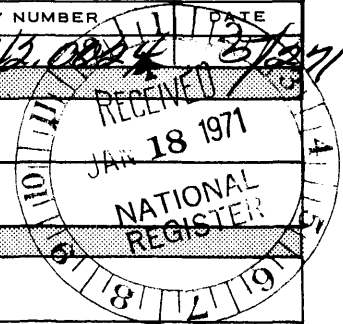
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Pennsylvania

COUNTY:
Philadelphia

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: **115420034** DATE: **3/27/71**



1. NAME

COMMON:
St. George's Methodist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
324 New Street NE corner Fourth and New Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Philadelphia

STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE: **42** COUNTY: **Philadelphia** CODE: **101**

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"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 checked="" 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"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
St. George's M. E. Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
324 New Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Philadelphia

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall, Records Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broad and Market Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Philadelphia

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Philadelphia Historical Commission local survey.

DATE OF SURVEY: _____
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Philadelphia Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
1313 City Hall Annex

CITY OR TOWN:
Philadelphia

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Pennsylvania**

COUNTY: **Philadelphia**

ENTRY NUMBER: **115420034**

DATE: **3/27/71**

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

Church building:

Plain 3 story brick building, Flemish bond; brick corner pilasters; moulded brick watertable; gable roof; box cornice with return over gable ends; brick lintels over 2nd floor gable end windows; plank frame windows throughout; 10-over-10 sash windows 1st and 3rd stories; 15-over-15 sash on 2nd story; arched, recessed panel in Fourth Street gable end above the square; two sets of double doors on Fourth Street facade. Because of several street lowerings, the west end (Fourth Street) facade has a raised basement.

Fourth Street has been lowered three times since the erection of St. George's. The basement story was an improvement of 1804 to provide four rooms for "class meetings." In 1836, further basement excavation created the Assembly Room. The original semi-circular benches and heating system are intact.

The present church auditorium is the original building and its interior was influenced strongly by St. Paul's Anglican (Episcopal) Church, 3rd and Chancellor Streets.

Historical Center:

The adjoining Historical Center dates from 1812 and is comprised of two joined town houses.

3 stories; brick Flemish bond; high moulded brick watertable; east portion of building is 4 bays wide; west portion is 2 bays in width; 12-over-12 sash on 1st and 2nd story; 8-over-8 sash on 3rd; plank frame windows throughout; stone lintels over basement windows; Arch head doorway; double stairs meeting at stoop; marble steps, iron rails. Box cornice; shutters on all windows.

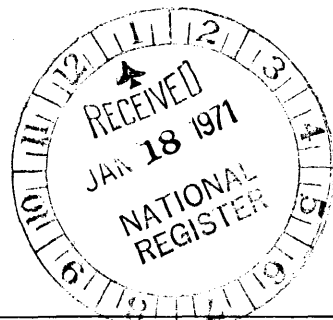
In church building:

A panel has been fitted into the arched recess above the square on the west gable reading, "Old St. George's Methodist Church 1767-1769."

Fourth Street has been lowered, necessitating a stone wall with iron railing to a paved entrance terrace at the west end.

The shutters of the Historical Center have been removed. A ca. 1925 hood has been added over the arched doorway.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



6. SIGNIFICANCE

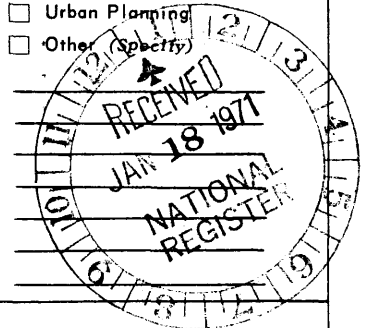
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1767/1812**

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

Old St. George's is the world's oldest Methodist Church in continuous service. It is the only original church of three which share the description "Cradles of American Methodism."

The Philadelphia congregation met first in a sail loft on Dock Street in 1767, when it was still an evangelical society whose members were also members of St. Paul's Anglican Church at 3rd. and Chancellor Sts. It acquired the present church in an unfinished state in 1769 from Dutch Presbyterians who had become bankrupt and were forced to auction it.

For some years there was just a dirt floor, upon which the British drilled cavalry during the occupation of Philadelphia. In 1784 the walls were plastered. The gallery was erected in 1792 and the present wooden candlesticks which adorn it have been used since that time. Among the original furnishings still in use are the 1770 collection boxes, the 1793 altar candelabra and the Asbury Chair, the property of Francis Asbury, third pastor of St. George's and the first Bishop of American Methodism.

A number of famous Americans were worshippers at one time or another. John Adams was a regular visitor in 1774, as were many members of the Continental Congress. In 1776 Robert Morris prayed all night in a Watch Night service that people might respond to his plea for \$50,000 to assist General Washington and his starving troops at Valley Forge. Six pastors and laymen served in the Revolutionary War.

A list of the distinctions and firsts connected with St. George's would be lengthy, indeed. Some of the more notable events are: 1771-Francis Asbury preached his first sermon in America here; 1773-1775-first three conferences of American Methodism held in St. George's; 1784-Richard Allen, the first Negro licensed to preach by the Methodists in America was licensed by St. George's; 1789-the precursor to the Methodist Publishing House was organized here. All Wesley's Itinerants came first to St. George's and preached their first sermons here.

Among the outstanding pastors of St. George's were Francis Asbury and Joseph Pilmoor.

St. George's has been Certified by the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Eberlein, Harold D. and Cortlandt Van Dyke Hubbard. Portrait of a Colonial City. Philadelphia, 1939 p. 208.
 Fire Association insurance policy no. 14591-2 (1849), resurvey 1887 after alterations, copy at PHC.
 Sellers, Horace Wells. Old Philadelphia Survey, typescript of an unpublished report on the A. I. A. survey of 1931. Copy in American Philosophical Society and PHC.
 Tatum, George B. Penn's Great Town. Philadelphia, 1961 p. 31
 Philadelphia Historical Commission files. Contain news clippings, photos, brief of title, etc.

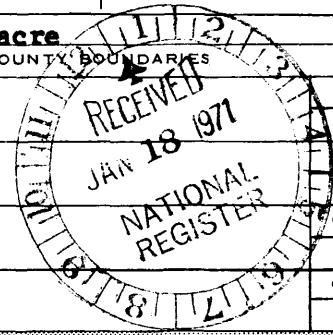
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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° 57' 19"	75° 08' 45"	
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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

NAME AND TITLE: **Mary C. Means, Student Aide**

ORGANIZATION: **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission** DATE: **7/15/70**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Box 1026**

CITY OR TOWN: **Harrisburg** STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE: **42**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 J. K. [Signature]
State Liaison Officer

Title **Executive Director**
Pa. Historical and Museum Commission

Date 1/14/71

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **MAY 27 1971**

ATTEST [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **MAR 29 1971**

2389
PHILADELPHIA QUADRANGLE
PENNSYLVANIA-NEW JERSEY
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5964 II SE
(FRANKFORD)

10' 486 EASTON 54 MI. JENKINTOWN 7 MI. 2 730 000 FEET (PA.) 488 489 75° 07' 30" 40° 00'



4427

250 000 FEET
(PA.)

4426

5 MI. TO U.S. 73

4425

4424

4423

57' 30"

2.7 MI. TO U.S. 130
ATLANTIC CITY 62 MI.

4422