Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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STATE: Delaware	
Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE.

04167/821

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections) 1. NAME COMMON: Prince George's Chapel AND/OR HISTORIC: 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: CITY OR TOWN: near Dagsboro, Dagsboro Hundred CODE CODE Sussex 003 Delaware 3. CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY ACCESSIBLE OWNERSHIP STATUS TO THE PUBLIC (Check One) Z X Public Yes: District X Building Public Acquisition: Occupied 0 Restricted ☐ In Process ☐ Site Private Structure Unoccupied Unrestricted ☐ Both Being Considered Object 🐧 Preservation work X No in progress O PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) Government □ Park Agricultural ☐ Transportation Commercial Industrial Private Residence 2 Other (Specify) vice Military Educational Religious public after Museum Entertainment Scientific S restorati OWNER OF PROPERTY Z OWNER'S NAME: of Delaware - Public Archives Commission State ш STREET AND NUMBER: Hall of Records ш CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE 10 10 Dover Delaware 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Sussex County Court House, Recorder of Deeds STREET AND NUMBER: The Circle CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE 10 Georgetown Delaware 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE OF SURVEY: ENTRY NUMBER FOR DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local NPS DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: USE STREET AND NUMBER: ONLY STATE: CITY OR TOWN: CODE ω

7. DESCRIPTION	(Check One)							
CONDITION	Excellent	X Good	☐ Fair [*]	☐ Deter	riorated	Ruins	☐ Unexposed	
CONDITION	(Check One)				(Check One)			
	∑ Alter	red	Unaltered			Moved	Original Site	

Prince George's Chapel, erected in 1757, from the outside gives the appearance of a small modern shingled house. The shingles, however, were added as a protection in 1929. The original section of the church is intact and little altered inside. A transept and chancel were added in or about 1763, creating a cruciform church, but these features have disappeared.

The interior retains its handsome vaulted ceiling of heart-pine, timbered pine pillars, some of the simply but expertly panelled box pews, other good panelling and most of the gallery. It has never been painted, so has attained a deep, rich natural coloring. Pointed windows with colored panes in the chancel and benches replacing many of the pews are nineteenth century alterations. The church is still in its isolated rural setting, standing back from State Route 26 against a wooded background. It has a small graveyard adjoining it.

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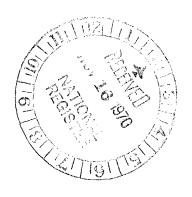


Pre-Columbian 15th Century	16th Century17th Century	→ 18th Century → 19th Century →	20th Century		
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	and Known) 1757				
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Prince George's Chapel is one of only eighteen church buildings in Delaware erected before 1800. It is a superb example of eighteenth century church architecture in the English tradition conceived for masonry but here executed in wood in an area where no other medium was readily available.

The congregation originated as a chapel-of-ease of Worcester Parish in Maryland. It is believed to have been the one Rev. George Ross visited in 1717. The present church was authorized by the vestry in June 1755 and accepted from its builder June 30, 1757. It was not until the creation of the formal structure of the Episcopal Church in Delaware in 1791 that Prince George's became formally a part of the religious structure of the State. It is therefore of interest as an illustration of the long boundary dispute's influence on church affairs. It is also a site treasured by both neighbors and distant parishioners. Although services have been held only at irregular intervals since the middle nineteenth century, the building and grounds have been carefully maintained. Through much of the twentieth century only an annual harvest home service has been held.

The most prominent individual associated with the congregation is General John Dagsworthy (1721-1784), a large landowner of the area and an officer in King George's War, the French and Indian War, and the Revolution. A strong supporter of the church in his lifetime, he was at his death interred under its chancel.



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