

PH0672751

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 17 1976
DATE ENTERED APR 13 1977

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. Martins Church, Worcester Parish

AND/OR COMMON

Old St. Martins Church

LOCATION

West side of intersection of U.S. 113 and Maryland 589,
STREET & NUMBER one mile south of Showell

CITY, TOWN	Showell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VICINITY OF	First	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
STATE	Maryland	CODE	24	COUNTY	Worcester
				CODE	047

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Vestry of Worcester Parish

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Berlin

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Worcester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Snow Hill

STATE

Maryland 21863

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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	<u> r </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old St. Martins Church is located on the west side of U.S. Route 113 at its intersection with Maryland Route 589, one mile south of Showell, Maryland.

It is a brick, one-story building with a gallery. * The walls above the chamfered water table are laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers on the north and south facades. The brickwork is finely done and in good condition. On the north and south is a heavy wooden cove cornice with end boards that follows the curve of the cove. The ridge of the A-roof runs from east to west; there is a "kick" to the eave of the roof.

The south facade is three bays long with a double batten door and transom (now boarded up) in the center bay. The two flanking windows are now closed on the lower half by batten shutters with strap hinges and are completely boarded over ^{on} the upper half. The lintels above the windows and doors are of gauged brick, and those above the windows have a gauged brick keystone. The west facade also contains an entrance with double batten doors. At gallery level is another boarded window. One of the unusual features of the building is the flat arches above the entrances which have an ogee ground into the bottom of the arch similar to those at Holly Hill, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

The north and east sides have two windows each exhibiting the same treatment as the south facade, with keystones in the gauged flat arches and shuttered and boarded windows. The east gable appears to have been rebuilt with brick of a more modern date.

The interior of the chapel still retains much of its early woodwork. The brick floors are laid directly on the ground and the box pews are raised above the floor level. The original paneled pews have been used to make slip pews. * Some portions of the yellow pine pews are painted and some have never been painted. On the west is a loft or gallery * which also retains its original pews, though these remain unaltered. Access to the gallery is gained by a wide set of stairs with no railing. This stairway is new and not in its original location. *

The interior walls are plastered and there is a wood vaulted ceiling painted blue. There is no altar and a vesting booth has been added in the southeast corner. * The reading desk platform and rail are crudely done and of a later date than the building. *

St. Martins is set in a grove of pine trees adjacent to Route 113. In the woods to the west of the building is an unusual growth of periwinkle.

* Description by Michael Bourne, July 1969, except sentences marked with an asterik. The information in the latter is taken from the report of Perry, Shaw, Etc., Architects (See #9, Bibliographical References).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present brick building known as Old St. Martins Church was started in 1756 and completed in 1759. It stands on the site of its less pretentious predecessor, a chapel of ease. The interior contains its original brick floor, some pews with original caps and an intact gallery. The original sash are in evidence and were double-hung, that is, with lead weights and pulleys so as not to have the dangerous notch-and-catch contrivance of the "guillotine." The brickwork of the church is well executed and a good example of the use of glazed headers common in the eighteenth century brickwork of the Eastern Shore.

Two acres of land were set aside for the church and cemetery. In the Anglican custom, several of the early rectors were buried under the chancel of the church. During the Revolutionary War, the officiating priest of Old St. Martins Church was detained and escorted to Annapolis.

In 1844, the Episcopal Bishop of Maryland came into the area and generated a renewal of interest in Old St. Martins which led to its refurbishing and alteration*. Box pews were turned into slip pews, the walls were plastered, and the gallery, initially in an L-shape position, was changed to its present position.

During the nineteenth century, membership dropped and parishioners attended churches in more populous areas. Old St. Martins was then used by other denominations on a temporary basis. Of the original silver service, two chalices are in the possession of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Berlin, Maryland, and two patents are in the possession of the Episcopal Church in Dagsboro, Delaware. Commemorative services are currently held once a year, in June, in Old St. Martin's Church.

*The Episcopal Bishop at this time was William Rollinson Whittingham (Bishop of Maryland from 1840 until 1879). According to Phoebe Stanton in her book, The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture, Whittingham became in 1840 the "head of a diocese in dire need of new churches, [and he]... set out to improve the physical condition of existing churches, reform and dignify ceremonial practice in the diocese, and increase the number of parishes and church buildings," (p. 217) He was personally a great proponent of the ecclesiological movement in church architecture and due to his influence, many of the new churches built in Maryland in the mid-19th century were in the Gothic Revival style. In spite of this, Whittingham was apparently also interested in refurbishing the buildings dating from Maryland's earlier church history. It was this concern that led him to prompt the restoration of Old St. Martins in 1844.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Earle, Swepson. The Chesapeake Bay Country. Baltimore: Thomsen-Ellis Company, 1923.
 Forman, H. Chandlee. Old Buildings, Gardens and Furniture in Tidewater Maryland. Cambridge, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1967.
 Minutes of the Vestry of Worcester Parish.
 Perry, Shaw and Hepburn, Kehoe and Dean, Architects. Regional
 see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	48,209,0	4,249,20,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mendel L. Heilig, Archivist/Michael Bourne

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

August 1975; July 1969

STREET & NUMBER

117 Elizabeth Street/21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Salisbury/Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

21801/21401

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

John N. Pearce

DATE

11/12/76

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF

John Z. ...

DATE

4/13/77

ATTEST:

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

3.18.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Worcester County

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Architectural Survey of Eastern Maryland Public and Semi-Public Buildings. 1951.

Skirven, Percy G. The First Parishes of The Province of Maryland. Baltimore: The Norman, Penington Co., 1923.

Wilstach, Paul. Tidewater Maryland. New York: Tudor Publishing Co., 1937.

Works Progress Administration Writers Project. Maryland, a Guide to the Old Line State. American Guide Series Reprint of 1940 ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1973.