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DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Washington

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Paul's Church, Baden, stands on the northwest side of Baden-Naylor Road at its intersection with Horsehead Road.

The church is a brick structure laid up in Flemish bond with a pattern of glazed headers where the brickwork has not been altered. The plan is a Latin cross, with a nave two bays long and transept arms one bay long; the present apse is an alteration.

The facade has an arched central doorway opening with flanking, round-arched windows. The double doors are square headed below a lintel at the level of the springing of the arch; the panel above the lintel is in-filled with two quarter-circle recessed panels with a heavy moulded surround. The flanking windows are 24/18 double hung sash with panes of varying sizes; the central vertical mullions are heavy and thus quite pronounced. In the gable, there is a circular stained glass window with a simple fascia surround. Above the doorway is a sundial, inscribed "made by George Adams of Fleet Street London."

The nave and transept windows are identical to those on the main facade. The end walls of the transepts have triple arched windows of neo-Georgian design with arch mullions. On the west transept end wall, there are signs of a former door visible in the brickwork; the west transept gable has also been rebuilt.

Over the altar, the present apse has a triple arched window set under a single segmental relieving arch. The window is glazed in stained glass set in lead. Each of the three lights is round-headed. Flanking this central motif are two square-headed windows set under segmental relieving arches.

The nave and transepts have an A-roof, with the transepts as tall as the nave. The eaves cornice consists of mouldings applied across the rafter ends. There is a plain board fascia below the eaves.

The interior of the church has been extensively remodeled with a new "open" ceiling and two small rooms added at the south end of the nave. There is a gallery over the rooms.

The information in the following description of the church was taken from the Vestry minutes of October 10, 1733:

## Original building - exterior

St. Paul's Church, constructed in 1733 - 1735, was built of substantial, well burnt bricks, and was 50 by 27 feet in overall size.

The main entrance was on the west side of the building and it had a handsome double door 11-1/2 feet high and 5 feet wide. On each side of the main entrance there was a window 8 feet high by 2-1/2 feet wide. Over the door there was a three section window giving light to the gal-

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#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1733-1735

In 1692 the Provincial Assembly of Maryland passed an Act authorizing the establishment of the Church of England in the Province. Thirty parishes were created at this time, one of them being St. Paul's Parish in Calvert County. St. Paul's Church, located at Charles Town, was made the parish church. In 1696 Prince George's County was created from parts of Calvert and Charles Counties and St. Paul's Parish became a part of the new county.

In 1732, as there had been a population shift away from the Mount Calvert-Charles Town area and the old church was greatly in need of repairs, an Act was passed for the assessment of tobacco on the parish to build a new church. Part of a tract known as the "Golden Race," belonging to Thomas Truman Greenfield, was selected as the site for the new church. Greenfield died before the sale of the property had been transacted, leaving the land to his son, Gerard Truman Greenfield. Because the son was a minor, a jury was impaneled to place a value on the two acres of land for the church. This value was determined to be forty shillings and the sheriff reported to the court in March of 1735 that the land had been transferred to the vestry. (Prince George's County Land Record NN F 210/210; Will 20 F/892).

Construction of the new church was started in 1733 and completed in 1735. The building has been in continuous use since that time. In 1744 a chapel of ease (now St. Thomas at Croom) was ordered erected by the vestry. The specifications as found in the vestry minutes call for a building identical to the church except for the cornice which was to be coved rather than modillioned. The size of the building indicates a sizeable growth in the parish necessitating the erection of a second large building.

The Reverend John Eversfield was inducted by Governor Benedict Leonard Calvert, on May 22, 1728, as Rector of St. Paul's Parish. He remained until 1778. It was during this time that the present church at Baden was built, and St. Paul's was said to be the richest parish in Maryland. Mr. Eversfield was a native of England and in addition to his ordination vows of conformity, had twice taken the oath of personal allegiance to the King of Great Britain. When the Revolution came, his land was confiscated and he was imprisoned for his Loyalist views. When his case was heard, it was resolved that in consideration of his age (75) and infirmities and his inability to exert any dangerous influence, he was

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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St. Paul's Church, Baden
CONTINUATION SHEET Prince GeorgesTEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

## Description, continued - Exterior

lery. The middle section was 4-1/2 feet high and 2-1/2 feet wide. The side sections were 3 feet 9 inches high and 1 foot wide.

There were porches on the north and south sides of the building, each 10 feet 4 inches square. Each porch had a double door, 8-1/2 feet high and 3 feet wide opening into the body of the Church. The porches were paved with brick. Also, on the north and south sides of the building, were four windows 8 feet high and 3 feet wide.

There was a large three section window in the east end of the Church. The middle section was 8 by 3 feet and side sections 7 feet 4 inches by 2 feet.

All windows were well glazed with square glass and lead and had substantial well-wrought shutters.

The foundations of the building were three feet deep. The walls were thre bricks thick to the upper part of the door sill, then continued two bricks thick to the height of the pitch 17 feet from the surface to the top of the plate. The gable ends continued the same thickness to the wind beam, then were 14 inches thick to the ridge. The walls of the porches were also 14 inches thick and carried up to the same pitch of the other walls.

All of the cornices, doors, window frames and shutters were painted white.

## Original building - interior

Across the west end of the building, and over the main entrance, was a gallery fourteen feet wide. In the front of the gallery there were three pews and in back of the pews three benches rising one above the other. There was a winding stairway to the gallery located behind the main door on the right side as you entered the Church.

A walnut Communion Table, 5 feet long and 3 feet wide, was on the east side of the building below the large three section window.

On the north side of the Church were a handsome pulpit and desk.

The aisle and cross aisle were paved with bricks.

The walls and ceiling were plastered with lime and hair and then whitened. The front of the gallery, the Communion Table, pulpit and desk, and the inside of the doors and window frames were painted a dove color.

(See continuation sheet #2)

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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St. Paul's Church, Baden
CONTINUATION SHEET Prince Georges ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

#### Description, continued

Alterations documented in the Vestry minutes

In 1769 the Vestry gave permission to two parishoners to enclose the porch on the north side of the building and install pews. (Vestry Minutes 7/4/1769)

In 1793 an addition of 26 by 30 feet was made to the south side of the Church and the main entrance and gallery were moved to the south side. Bricks used in the addition were made locally and worked in with the old bricks taken from the opening made to enlarge the Church. The old front door and other old materials were used in the new addition. Ten new pews were installed. (Vestry Minutes 7/15/1793).

Later in 1793 the north porch was made into a Vestry Room. (Vestry Minutes 10/11/1793)

Major repair work and restoration was done in 1857. A new open style roof was constructed. The chancel was remodeled and a handsome walnut railing along with a walnut altar desk and pulpit were installed. (Vestry Minutes 7/6/1857)

In 1882 the old Vestry Room, formerly the north porch, was taken down and a recessed chancel built. The Bishop's Window, a memorial to Bishop Thomas John Claggett, was moved to the Chancel window. (Vestry Minutes 8/29/1888)

In 1921 the Sanctuary was widened and the Chancel deepened. (Vestry Minutes 7/15/1921)

St. Paul's today is a lovely old country church surrounded by a graveyard with old oak trees and evergreens. The church yard contains many early graves with gravestones too old and worn to decipher.

Over the entrance to the Church is an unusual sundial purchased in England in 1751. The dial bears the motto "Sic transit gloria mundi". It is thought by many to be the only such public timepiece on an early colonial church.

A marble baptismal font, sent over from England in 1752, is still in use. Also still in use is a Communion Service dating to the period of George the First. Carefully preserved is an old Bible dated 1739 which was purchased in England for the Parish.

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

St. Paul's Church, Baden Prince Georges County CONTINUATION SHEET Marvland ITEM NUMBER 8

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#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

released. His two sons, who were American patriots, purchased his property and returned it to him. From 1745 until his death in 1780, Mr. Eversfield also conducted a school and educated many of the youth of southern Maryland. He was also made a trustee of the free school that was established in Marlboro in 1744.

In 1775 Reverend Eversfield employed a curate, the Reverend Walter Hanson Harrison, a native of Charles County. He was one of the few of the clergy who was a Whig. He left the parish in 1776 when the support which had been given by law to the clergy of Maryland ceased.

Reverend William Duke was rector from 1787 to 1791. During this time he started a school in Upper Marlboro and also preached there. This was the beginning of a movement which finally resulted in the establishment of Trinity Church in that town. Mr. Duke formed a plan to visit the West to assist in planning and spreading religion and learning. In 1791 he started out to carry out his plan and got as far as the Allegany mountains in western Virginia when his health failed him. This is believed to be the first attempt in the work of domestic missions in the United States. In 1803 he became Professor of Languages at St. John's in Annapolis and in 1806 was made Principal of Charlotte Hall Academy in St. Mary's County.

In 1780 the Reverend Thomas J. Claggett, a native of the parish, became rector of St. Paul's. Twelve years later, in 1792, he became the first Bishop to be consecrated in the United States and the first Bishop of the Diocese of Maryland. He served St. Paul's as rector intermittently until 1810 when he resigned because of his responsibilities as Bishop and his failing health.

In December 1800 the United States Congress for the first time met in Washington City and, unsolicited on his part, Bishop Claggett was made Chaplain of the Senate. When President George Washington died, the State of Maryland set aside the day of February 22, 1800 as a day of mourning and prayer. St. Paul's Church was designated as the official place of observance in Prince George's County.

(See continuation sheet #4)

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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St. Paul's Church, Baden Prince Georges County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 8

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#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1832 the Reverend Henry B. Goodwin became rector. He left St. Paul's the following year but continued to live in the parish and devoted himself to the instruction of the colored race. He emancipated fifty of his slaves after preparing them for freedom, and sent them to Liberia in Africa. In 1844 he published "The North and the South." These letters attracted much interest at the time and he was considered to be of great ability.

St. Paul's Church is significant in the history of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Maryland for several reasons. First, the perpetuation of this church for 242 years has provided a record of the religious life of the founders and the generations who followed. The original minutes of vestry proceedings have been maintained since 1733 and church registers of births, baptisms, marriages and burials since 1831. Second, St. Paul's illustrates the transformation of a small, rural, colonial church into an American style, cruciform structure. The porches have been removed and the south wall opened to enlarge the church, but no other major changes have been made in the 20th century.

Also, St. Paul's is a good example of the part that agriculture, particularly tobacco, played in the 18th century history of the Church of England in Maryland. Tobacco was the principal crop raised then, and the most often used rate of exchange. Taxes, fines, rents, and salaries were paid in tobacco. Prior to the Revolutionary War, the clergymen and the Church itself were supported through tobacco taxes. The General Assembly required vestries to establish precincts in their parishes and to appoint counters to each precinct to enforce crop control in an effort to improve the quality of the crops. Vestries were also required to recommend tobacco planters as inspectors for the tobacco warehouses. Early vestry minutes of St. Paul's include many records and details of tobacco transitions. When the tobacco planters flourished, the church flourished. When the planters were financially stricken, the church was also financially depressed.