

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

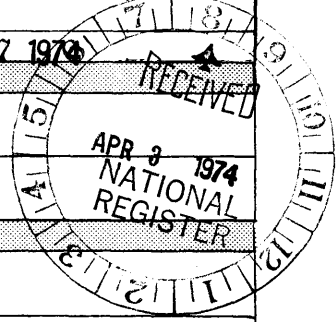
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:  
Maryland

COUNTY:  
Baltimore City

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE  
SEP 17 1974



1. NAME

COMMON:  
Westminster Presbyterian Church and Cemetery

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Westminster Presbyterian Church and Western Burying Grounds

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
509 West Fayette Street (corner of Greene Street)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Seventh

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Baltimore City CODE: 510

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)  | OWNERSHIP   | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object   | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both   | Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered   | Yes:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)   |   |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br>cemetery                     |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
church: Trustees of the Westminster Presbyterian Church  
cemetery: Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
church: 509 West Fayette Street cemetery: 200 West Madison Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Baltimore

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Land Record Office of the Superior Court of Baltimore City

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 610, Baltimore City Court House

CITY OR TOWN:  
Baltimore

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1965  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 402, City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:  
Baltimore

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Baltimore City

ENTRY NUMBER: SEP 17 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

|           |   |                                    |  |   |                                |                                    |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                                 |                                    |  |   |                                |                                    |
|           | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent          | <input type="checkbox"/> Good      | <input checked="" 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

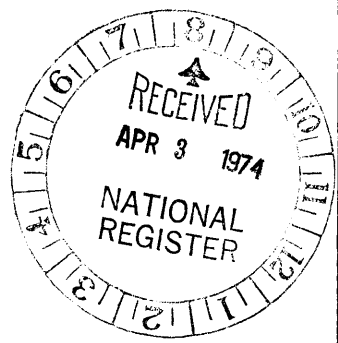
The Westminster Presbyterian Church, located at the southeast corner of Fayette and Greene Streets, was designed in the perpendicular English style of early Gothic Revival by Thomas and James Dixon and Thomas Balbirnie. The church is constructed of brick, with brownstone trim and very little ornamentation. The recessed stone entryway has two lancet panelled doors with transoms, set in a pointed arch surrounded with stone. There are three bays with pointed arch windows surrounded by projecting stone and by lancet mullions. There is a cornice of simple projecting stone moulding several feet below sloping aisle roofs of shingle. A one hundred forty-two foot high tower with battlemented top is located above the central bay of the facade. This bay projects slightly, and the projecting pilasters rise the entire height of the tower, broken at four intervals by gabled buttresses and string courses.

The church building is ninety feet long and sixty-three and a half feet wide; originally planned to be narrower, the design had to be widened to avoid interference with the graves. The windows are glazed with obscured glass, having finely stained heads. A balcony is located along the inside wall above the entrance, and an organ dominates the opposite wall.

The church is built directly over part of the graveyard; some of the burial vaults and tombs are preserved intact in the church basement. Outside the church, the graveyard is surrounded by a brick wall (built about 1815). The Greek classic iron-work gate was designed by the French architect Maximilien Godefroy, who also designed the Battle Monument and the St. Mary's Seminary Chapel; the two neo-Egyptian sandstone posts are topped by a gorge and roll cornice. The Egyptian motif is continued in several of the large vaults, lending variety to the headstones and table gravestones. The vault of James Calhoun is constructed of huge granite blocks; it is built in the shape of a perfect pyramid, in imitation of the tomb of Caius Cestius near the Porto St. Paola, where it forms a part of the wall of Rome.<sup>1</sup> Another large Egyptian-style crypt is that of merchant John O'Donnell. The sealed entrance, with a triangular pediment in the center, is flanked by caryatids which are topped with a gorge and roll cornice and an ornamental motif.

<sup>1</sup> J.E.P. Boulden, M.D., The Presbyterians of Baltimore; Their Churches and Historic Graveyards, Baltimore; Wm. K. Boyle and Son, 1875, p.67.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br><u>Historic</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input checked="" 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

The Westminster Presbyterian Church was built in 1852 directly over the old Western Burying Grounds of the First Presbyterian Church, after a city ordinance was passed prohibiting cemeteries which were not adjacent to a church building or chapel. The construction of a new church was first planned in 1850, and was organized by members of the First Presbyterian Church and the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church, under the guidance of Reverend J. C. Backus, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. The first worship service in the Westminster Presbyterian Church was held on July 4, 1852; the first pastor was Reverend William T. Hoge. On July 16, 1852 the church was formally organized by the Presbytery of Baltimore, and the elders were installed on July 28.

The church itself is of secondary historic importance since it exists mainly to preserve the graveyard. A history of Baltimore Presbyterians published in 1875 states, "There is no doubt but what Westminster Church has been the means of saving the honored and historic graves which lie under and around it from desecration, and of retaining that hallowed spot for the sacred purposes for which it had been consecrated."<sup>1</sup> The graveyard dates back to the 18th century; it is the remaining area of the lot purchased by the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church (through a committee consisting of William Smith, John Boyd, and William Patterson) from Colonel John Eager Howard in January, 1787.<sup>2</sup> A great number of famous Marylanders are interred here, including many Revolutionary patriots and veterans of the War of 1812. The most widely known person buried in the cemetery is the internationally famous literary figure, Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849). Poe's grave is a major tourist attraction in front of the church, with a monument financed by Baltimore schoolchildren. His grandfather, David Poe (1743-1816), is also buried here in the family plot; he served as Washington's Assistant Quartermaster General in the Continental Army.

Some of the other noteworthy persons, civilian and military, buried in the Westminster Cemetery may be listed:

(see continuation sheet)

<sup>1</sup> J.E.P. Boulden, M.D., The Presbyterians of Baltimore; Their Churches and Historic Graveyards, Baltimore: Wm. K. Boyle and Son, 1875, p.56.

<sup>2</sup> J. Thomas Scarff, History of Baltimore City and County, Maryland, Baltimore; 1881, p.549.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Arnett, Earl. "A Quiet Island of History." The Sun, Baltimore: April 7, 1969. p. B1.

Boulden, J.E.P., M.D. The Presbyterians of Baltimore; Their Churches and Historic Graveyards. Baltimore: Wm. K. Boyle & Son, 1875. pp.54-70.

Curtis, Bernard. "Crash Damages Historic Gates." The Evening Sun, Baltimore: September 19, 1967.

(see continuation sheet #2)

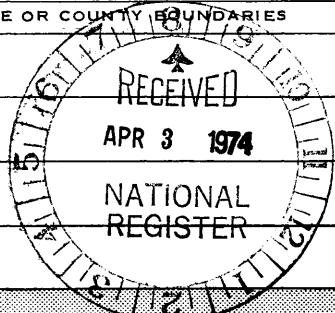
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | 39 ° 17 ' 23 "  | 76 ° 37 ' 25.5 "        |  |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Joyce Maclay and Catharine Black

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: August 29, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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 Orlando Ridout IV  
Orlando Ridout, IV

Title State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland

Date December 10, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

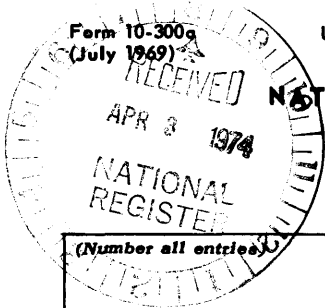
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. Mouton  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/17/74

ATTEST:  
W. H. Mouton  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 9-16-74



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE            |             |
| Maryland         |             |
| COUNTY           |             |
| Baltimore City   |             |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE        |
|                  | SEP 17 1974 |

Westminster Presbyterian Church and Cemetery

Number 8. Significance continued.

Reverend Patrick Allison (1740-1802), the founder and first minister of the First Presbyterian Church, was also an ardent patriot and delivered the address at Washington's funeral.

Commodore Joshua Barney (1759-1818) was a hero of the Revolution and the War of 1812; he was the first man to unfurl the American flag in 1775, and the bearer of the news of peace with Britain in 1783.

Colonel Paul Bentalou (1735-1826) fought with Count Pulaski at the Siege of Savannah in 1799.

Dr. John Boyd (1746-1799) was a Revolutionary patriot as well as an outstanding doctor and a charter member of the Baltimore Medical Society.

James Calhoun (1743-1816) was elected the first mayor of Baltimore in 1796.

Henry Didier (1747-1822), a Revolutionary veteran, was a leading merchant and railroad pioneer.

Colonel James McHenry (1753-1816) served in the Continental Army as a surgeon. He was a member of the first Constitutional Convention and a signer of the Constitution. He served as Secretary of War under Washington and Adams. Baltimore's Fort McHenry was constructed and named in his honor.

Isaac McKim (1775-1838) served in the War of 1812 as Aid de Camp to General Samuel Smith. He was elected twice to Congress, and was the founder of McKim's School.

John O'Donnell (1780-1805) was the merchant who began Baltimore's trade with China.

Robert Purviance (1734-1806) supplied salt to Washington's army at Valley Forge.

John Stuart Skinner (1788-1851) was the Baltimore City Postmaster and the Third Assistant Postmaster General of the United States. During the War of 1812 he was in charge of negotiations for exchange of prisoners in the Chesapeake Bay area, and accompanied Francis Scott Key while Key wrote the "Star-Spangled Banner."

Robert Smith (1757-1842) was Secretary of the Navy and Attorney General in Jefferson's cabinet, and Secretary of State under Madison.

General Samuel Smith (1750-1839) was a Revolutionary veteran and was in charge of Baltimore's defense during the War of 1812.

David Stodder built the U.S.S. Constellation, launched in 1797.

Brigadier General John Stricker (1759-1825) led the Third Brigade, Maryland militia, in the Battle of North Point, 1814.

The Westminster Church and Cemetery are now situated in the midst of commercial area and are surrounded by the growing University of Maryland complex, but the church and its churchyard remain a quiet enclave of history.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |                |             |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| STATE            | Maryland       |             |
| COUNTY           | Baltimore City |             |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |                |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER     |                | DATE        |
|                  |                | SEP 17 1974 |

(Number all entries)

Westminster Presbyterian Church and Cemetery

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Westminster Presbyterian Church is not connected with the First Presbyterian Church. The former building was erected subsequent to an ordinance requiring ecclesiastical structures in cemeteries. Each congregation is independent of the other.

The importance of the Westminster Cemetery is derived, in addition to the historical associations, from the unusually fine examples of the stone cutter's art displayed in the monuments. Their significance rests as fine examples of sculpture in a more vernacular than fine art sense. The outstanding monuments present an interpretation of the Egyptian Revival and Greek Revival architectural tastes in stone. The gates on the west wall interpret Egyptian motifs in stone and iron. The pyramid tomb and the Davis tomb in the northeast corner of the cemetery use two further examples. Scattered throughout the cemetery are mausolea in varying sizes executed in a secure style with ornamentation from ancient Greek sources most notably a frequent use of acroteria. The simple geometric shapes of the Egyptian and Greek style tombs give the cemetery a sense of the presence of death similar to the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) 2

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE            |             |
| Maryland         |             |
| COUNTY           |             |
| Baltimore City   |             |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE        |
|                  | SEP 17 1974 |

(Number all entries)

Westminster Presbyterian Church and Cemetery

Number 9. Major Bibliographical References Continued.

Scarff, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County, Maryland.  
Baltimore, 1881. p. 549.

"Something Else...We Can So Proudly Hail." Baltimore District Postal  
Employees Newsletter. Baltimore: September, 1972. p.3.

"Westminster Presbyterian Church." The Sun. Baltimore: July 1, 1852. p.1.

"Westminster Presbyterian Church." The Sun. Baltimore: July 4, 1852. p.1.

