

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000728 Date Listed: 7/25/94

Christ Episcopal Church St. Mary's MD
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name _____

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

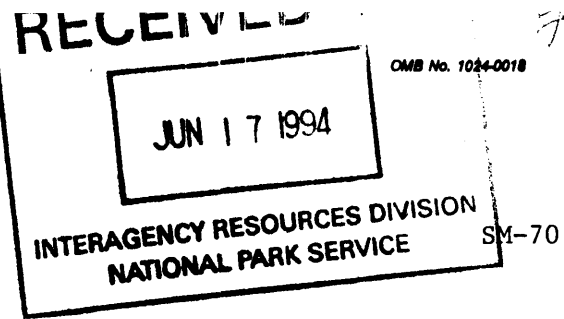
8/1/94
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The acreage needs to be clarified: through a typographical error it is listed as 5,048 acres on the form; it should be 5.048 acres. The form is officially amended to reflect the correct acreage.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number State Route 238 (Maddox Road) N/A not for publication

city, town Chaptico N/A vicinity

state Maryland code MD county St. Mary's code 037 zip code 20621

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER 6/13/94
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Patrick Andrews 7/25/94
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

SM-70

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof METAL

other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Christ Episcopal Church in King and Queen Parish in St. Mary's County, Maryland, was constructed in 1736 in the port village of Chaptico near the Wicomico River, which flows into the Potomac River. Of brick, Flemish bond construction with glazed headers, it is a rectangular building five bays in length and three bays in width, sixty feet long and forty feet wide. At the east end of the building is an original semi-circular brick apse, a frequent architectural feature of colonial Maryland Anglican churches, rare elsewhere. All windows and the door have semi-circular arches. The modillion cornices of the nave and the apse and flat barge boards with raking crown molding at each gable end are largely original. A three-story brick tower with octagonal belfry and spire was added to the west end of the church in 1916. The first story of the tower is open, with an arch on each side, sheltering the original west entrance, now the only entrance. Formerly there were doors in the central bay of the north and south sides, altered in the early 19th century as windows. Of 18th century origin, the double west doors are massive, heavy, and 13'10½" in height. The roof is tin. Surrounding the church is a cemetery with eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth century markers.

8. Statement of Significance

SM-70

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1736-1916

Significant Dates

1736

1916

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Christ Episcopal Church is significant for its architecture, which embodies the evolution of a typical parish church in Maryland's rural southern region. Its construction in the eighteenth century and subsequent remodeling reflect the effects of changing religious and economic forces on the area through the mid eighteenth century to the first quarter of the twentieth century. Christ Episcopal Church was built in response to legislation passed in 1692 by the province of Maryland, an "Act for the Service of Almighty God and the Establishment of the Protestant Religion Within Maryland," which created a church supported by taxes. This law remained in effect until the Revolutionary War. Less than probably a dozen Episcopal churches built using the tax money still exist in southern Maryland. Following the Revolution, its English associations rendered the Episcopal Church unpopular, and membership declined precipitously in the area. Church buildings, lacking regular use or maintenance, fell into decline until a concerted campaign for reorganization and reconstruction was waged by the diocese in the 1830s. Christ Episcopal Church exemplifies this trend. Notably the interior was reconfigured, although the original form is still identifiable. Notable change was made in the entrances to emphasize one central entrance. In 1916, further remodeling was made with the addition of the entrance and bell tower which brought the church architecturally in line with a new interest in the state's history and heritage. Many buildings were renovated in a fashion to reflect popular concepts of our colonial period architecture.

See continuation sheet

No. 6

For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet No. 10

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property 5,084 acres
USGS Quad: Rock Point, MD

UTM References

A	<u>18</u>	<u>344150</u>	<u>4247720</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet No. 12

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet No. 12

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Combs Barber, Member
 organization Christ Episcopal Church date July 1, 1993 Barber
 street & number MD State Route 238 telephone Church-(301)884-3749/(301)884-
 city or town Chaptico state Maryland zip code 20621 890

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Christ Episcopal Church
St. Mary's County
Maryland

SM-70

Section number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Christ Episcopal Church in King and Queen Parish in St. Mary's County, Maryland, was constructed in 1736 in the port village of Chaptico near the Wicomico River, which flows into the Potomac River. Of brick, Flemish bond construction with glazed headers, it is a rectangular building five bays in length and three bays in width, sixty feet long and forty feet wide. At the east end of the building is an original semi-circular brick apse, a frequent architectural feature of colonial Maryland Anglican churches, rare elsewhere. All windows and the door have semi-circular arches. The modillion cornices of the nave and the apse and flat barge boards with raking crown molding at each gable end are largely original. A three-story brick tower with octagonal belfry and spire was added to the west end of the church in 1916. The first story of the tower is open, with an arch on each side, sheltering the original west entrance, now the only entrance. Formerly there were doors in the central bay of the north and south sides, altered in the early 19th century as windows. Of 18th century origin, the double west doors are massive, heavy, and 13'10½" in height. The roof is tin.

In the interior of the church, the central barrel-vaulted ceiling of the nave and flat ceiling of the side aisles are supported by eight wooden columns topped by elaborately carved capitals of the composite order. This is the earliest of five colonial Anglican churches of Southern Maryland where columns express a nave and side aisles; a design not found elsewhere except in the great city churches in Charleston, S.C., Philadelphia, New York and Boston.

A marble baptismal font, a bowl on a fluted pedestal, is perhaps the oldest article in the church. It dates from the 18th century and is patterned after the published designs of James Gibbs and Batty Langley.

Most of the interior fabric dates from the period of the restoration of the church after it was damaged by the British soldiers in 1814. A wood floor raised about eight inches was installed over the damaged tile floor. The nave contains parallel slip pews entered by small panelled doors from two side aisles.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Christ Episcopal Church
St. Mary's County
Maryland

SM-70

Section number 7 Page 2

The center pews face the altar, while those along the side walls are parallel to the wall and face the center aisle. Originally, a center aisle led from the door to the chancel rail and a cross aisle ran from north to south with an outside door at each end. These two side doors were where today the middle windows on the north and south sides of the church are. Door sills about two courses high are still evident.

About 1839 the pulpit was erected in its present location, and the present pews put in. The present communion rail probably dates from 1854 when a new one was ordered to match the pulpit. The balusters of the rail match the balusters of the present altar and the present altar was formerly the top of an earlier pulpit. The altar has carved consoles at each corner. In 1849 the partition was put in across the west end of the building and the small vestry room near the entrance door was made.

Stairs lead to a gallery, which was formerly set aside for the black congregation. It is now used by the choir and contains a large pipe organ manufactured by M.P. Moller of Hagerstown, Maryland and installed in 1913.

The plaster-walled church contains a round window over the door entrance, and ten stained glass windows replace the earlier clear glass windows. These were installed in the late 19th and early 20th century in memory of parishioners' deceased family members. The Hayden and Garner windows are signed "C. Day Rudy Company, Harrisburg, Pa." Behind the altar in the apse is a stained glass three-section depiction of the Epiphany centered around the Christ Child. This window was manufactured by the Gettier Art Company, Baltimore, and was installed in 1913. The tripartite frame appears contemporary with the other early 19th century window frames, three arched windows, the central one taller, under a single broad arch. The westerly windows of each side, and the windows of the west end, retain their early 19th century sash of small clear panes of glass. Probably not heated at all in the 18th century, the building, after its restoration in the 19th century, was heated by wood or coal stoves. It was not lighted. A letter of September 21, 1921, reminds the visiting bishop that "the service will have to be over by sunset as we have no means of lighting the church." Central heating and lighting

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Christ Episcopal Church
St. Mary's County
Maryland

SM-70

Section number 7 Page 3

were added in 1946 and air-conditioning in 1988.

Surrounding the church is its graveyard, containing marked graves as early as the late 18th century. Some of the gravestones themselves are works of art. Extant burial records do not exist for the 18th century, but there is no doubt that the cemetery contains graves from the colonial period. Near the apse is the Key family vault accessed by an iron door, set in a granite frame and enclosed by an iron fence.

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

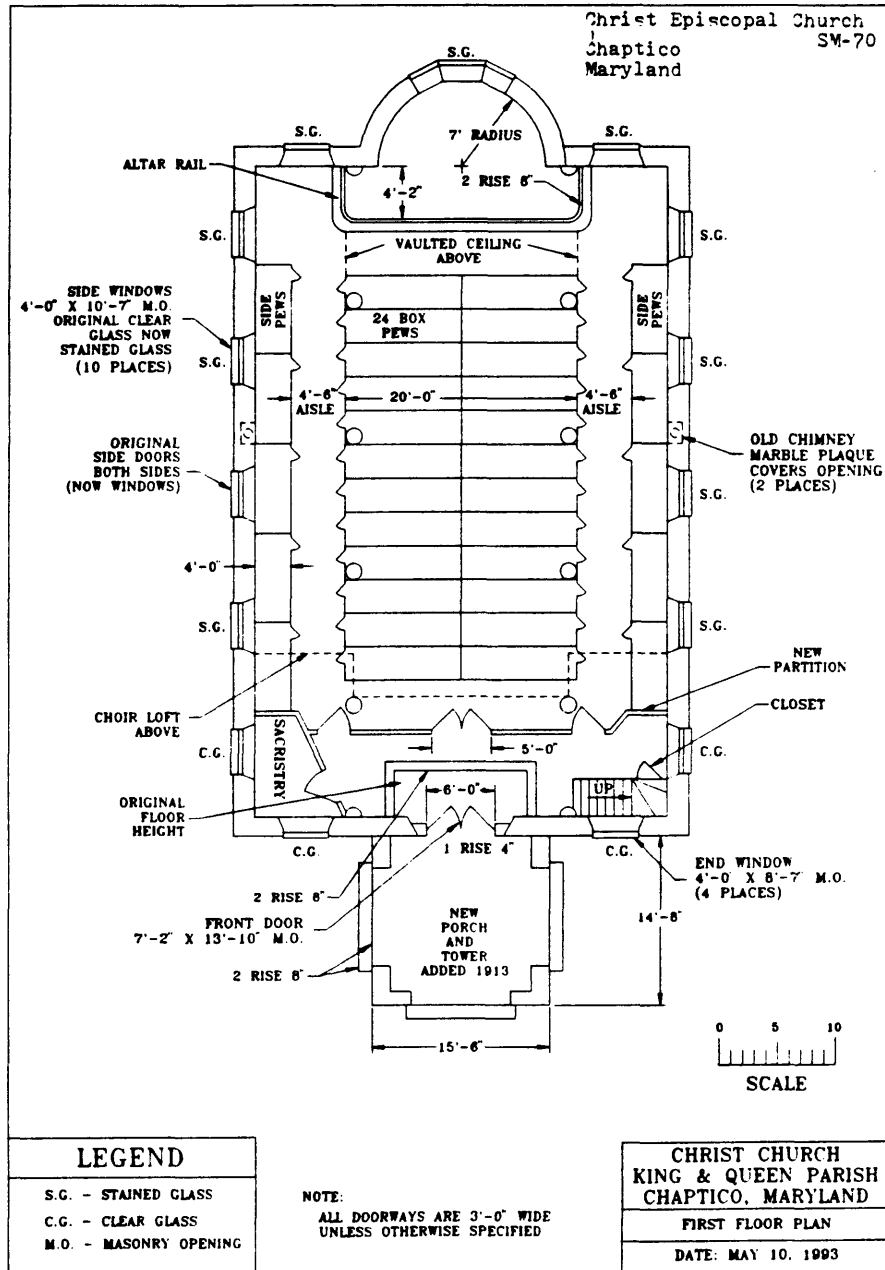
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Christ Episcopal Church
St. Mary's County
Maryland

SM-70

Section number 7 Page 4



See Continuation Sheet No. 5

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

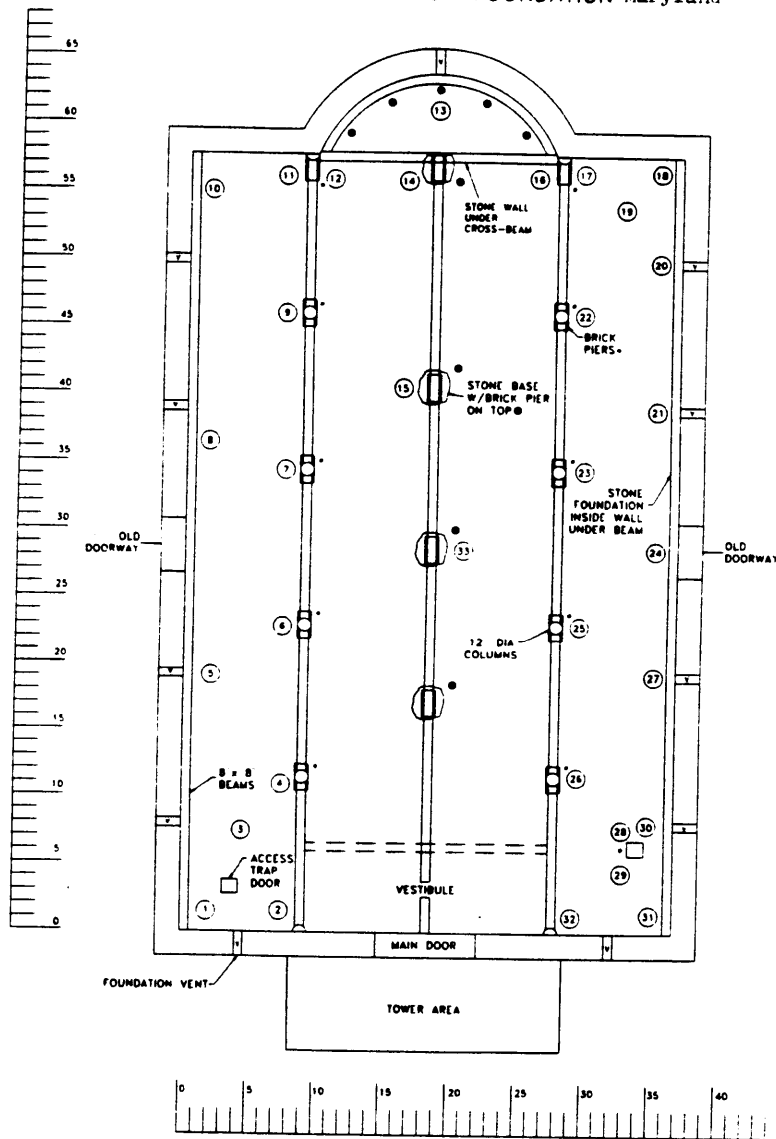
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Christ Episcopal Church
St. Mary's County
Maryland

SM-70

Section number 7 Page 5

Christ Episcopal Church
Chaptico, Maryland
CHRIST CHURCH FOUNDATION SM-70



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Christ Episcopal Church
St. Mary's County
Maryland

SM-70

Section number 8 Page 6

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
Agricultural Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Religion

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

RELIGION/religious facility

Known Design Source: Unknown

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Christ Episcopal Church
St. Mary's County
Maryland

SM-70

Section number 8 Page 7

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Two parishes were created in 1692 in St. Mary's County: William and Mary in the lower part of the county, and King and Queen in the upper. In 1735, "The Rector, Vestrymen and church wardens of King and Queen Parish" were authorized by "His Lordship's Governor and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly" to build a new brick church at a place "to be determined at a meeting at Chaptico." Additional legislation authorized a levy on the taxable inhabitants of the parish, Anglican or not, and the sheriff was instructed to collect the tax and pay it to the vestrymen and church wardens. The building was constructed in 1736 under the supervision of Philip Key, vestryman, who lived nearby (and who was the grandfather of Francis Scott Key). The church was located near the already existing wharf and warehouses at Chaptico, Chaptico having been made a port of entry in 1683. The location was near the commercial and dwelling buildings associated with the wharf, close to the water. In the records, there is mention of water entering buildings during high tides and great storms. Silting has filled in much of Chaptico Bay, and today the land near the church is a tidal marsh.

Forty years after the construction of the church, the Revolutionary War began. From Chaptico port, supplies were stored and sent to General Washington's Army, sometimes under great difficulty as the Potomac River was patrolled by British vessels. Planters in the Chaptico area, who were often members of the church, organized shipments. In the graveyard around the church and in private graveyards on the plantations near Chaptico, some of these patriots are buried.

As the 18th century ended, the church remained the nucleus of a small river village in southern Maryland. A post office was added in 1792. Chaptico and Leonardtown were the first post offices established in the county.

The Revolutionary War brought to an end all public support of the church. Throughout the 19th century, the vestry dealt with a lukewarm congregation and its indifference to a deteriorating building. Vestry minutes, which have been preserved from 1799 to the present, record a chronic problem of finding money to keep the

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Christ Episcopal Church
St. Mary's County
Maryland

SM-70

Section number 8 Page 8

church open and the minister paid (if one could be located to come to so remote and area). The greatest destruction came when an admiral of the British fleet, during the War of 1812, came ashore on July 30, 1814, and "with the Marines, took possession of Chaptico Village, stole supplies, broke every pane of glass in the village, damaged and desecrated the church, broke the white tile floor, destroyed the organ, stabled the horses in the building itself and opened graves, searching for jewelry or treasure." This outrage provoked indignant reaction, and funds and supplies were sent to Chaptico from Baltimore and Washington. The church was slowly repaired although there were times when money was so short consideration was given to closing down. Vestrymen reached into their own pockets and kept the church together. James Thomas, twice Governor of Maryland, who lived at nearby Deep Falls, was a member of the vestry at this time.

After the British raid, modifications to the interior of the church were made. The floor was raised eight inches. The doors on the sides of the church were bricked up so that only the west door remains. The pulpit was moved to the apse. A partition was placed across the west end of the church to make the church warmer and stoves were installed.

The advent of the American Civil War disrupted the parish. Chaptico again became prominent, this time as a headquarters for sending contraband supplies and medicine to the south via the Potomac River. Merchant Charles Spalding was sent to the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C., and his \$20,000.00 stock of goods was confiscated because he was suspected of illicit trade with the south. When the war ended, many disheartened parishioners left the area. Once again there was not enough money to pay the minister. But conditions gradually improved. The emergence of the Society formed to preserve the church and its other buildings - the parish hall, rectory, etc. - was organized in 1884 and still exists today. It has raised money to preserve and improve the church, much more money than the record indicates, for repairs, painting, carpentry, fencing, carpeting, lightning rods, the bell tower, installation of telephone and electricity, etc. Funds were generated by church festivals, dinners, and bequests to the Society.

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Christ Episcopal Church
St. Mary's County
Maryland

SM-70

Section number 8 Page 9

The final years of the 19th century and the first 40 years of the 20th century found the church the center of a lively village of stores, a blacksmith shop, village hall, funeral parlor, and public school. Today, the commercial activity in Chaptico has decreased. Former stores have been converted to dwellings. There is still a post office at Chaptico, a couple of stores, and the church and its graveyard still remain. A vigorous vestry, many of its members as well as the congregation descendants of earlier vestrymen and parishioners, is dedicated to the growth and preservation of this parish and its treasure--its 250-year-old church building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Christ Episcopal Church
St. Mary's County
Maryland

SM-70

Section number 9 Page 10

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:

- Barber, Polly (Mary Combs). Christ Church Chaptico Celebrates, Chronicles of St. Mary's, Fall 1989.
- Beitzell, Edwin W. All Saints Episcopal Church, Chronicles of St. Mary's, May-November, 1955, issues.
- Beitzell, Edwin W. Calendar of Events St. Mary's County in the American Revolution, Copyright 1975, pp. 50, 56, 94, 96, 98, 100, 113, 128, 129, 130.
- Daugherty, Charles R.C. The Church of England in Maryland Especially St. Mary's County, Chronicles of St. Mary's, September/October, 1966.
- Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, St. Mary's County, Maryland Historical Trust Library, Crownsville, Maryland.
- Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland. Act Authorizing Building of Church Assembly Proceeding. March 20, 1734/5 - April 24, 1735.
- Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland. Original Vestry Minutes, 1799-1962.
- Norris, Joseph, Chaptico. A History of St. Mary's County's 4th District - 1984, p. 14. Photograph of church, pp. 13, 22.
- Papenfuse, Stiverson, Collins and Carr, Eds. Maryland: A New Guide to the Old Line State, 1976, p. 270.
- Pogue, Robert E.T. Yesterday in Old St. Mary's County, Copyright 1968, pp. 335, 336, Chaptico village description, illustrations of store and church.
- Ridgely, Helen W. Historic Graves of Maryland and the District of Columbia, Genealogical Publishing Company 1967, pp. 36, 37.

See Continuation Sheet No. 11

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Christ Episcopal Church
St. Mary's County
Maryland

SM-70

Section number 9 Page 11

Skirven, Percy G. The First Parishes of the Province of Maryland - 1923. The Norman Remington Company, Baltimore, p. 113 photograph.

Thomas, James Walter. Chronicles of Colonial Maryland - 1900. Presses of Frank B. Jenvey, Cumberland, Maryland, pp. 211-216.

Tilp, Frederick. This was Potomac River, Copyright 1978, pp. 147, 169, 197, 316.

Wilfong, James C. Some Notes on a County Landmark, Chronicles of St. Mary's, November, 1956.

James Thomas Wollon, well known and highly respected architect of Havre de Grace, Maryland, was of great assistance in the preparation of the application. In 1992 he delivered a slide lecture about the colonial Anglican churches of southern Maryland, which required his visiting many of these churches, including the subject building, to photograph details for the lecture. He advised on the preparation of the text, pointed out significant architectural details, reviewed the application, and graciously and generously shared his knowledge of Maryland secular and ecclesiastical architecture as well as his knowledge of ecclesiastical English precedents that influenced colonial buildings.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Christ Episcopal Church
St. Mary's County
Maryland

SM-70

Section number 10 Page 12

Boundaries

St. Mary's County Land Records
Liber MEB 018 folio 115

Boundary Justification:

The property consists only of the village lot upon which the resource stands.

