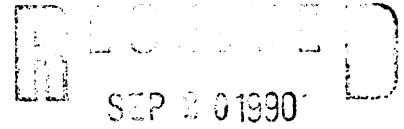


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 Grace Episcopal Church
other names/site number S-376

2. Location

street & number Mount Vernon Road N/A not for publication
city, town Mt. Vernon vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Somerset code 039 zip code 21853

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>1</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] Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 9/17/90
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. Patrick Andrews 11/1/90
 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure

FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure

FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

GOTHIC REVIVAL

GREEK REVIVAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls VINYL

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Grace Episcopal Church, erected in 1846-1847, is a single-story, three-bay Gothic Revival frame church on a brick foundation. The west or principal elevation is marked by a single Gothic arched double-door opening on the first floor. Each lateral side of the church is finished with three diamond-pane Gothic arched sash windows. The upper portion of the window has large arched muntins that conform to the Gothic point of the window. The cornice is boxed and trimmed with a plain bed molding. The east end of the main block is largely covered by a shorter gable roofed altar and shed-roofed sacristy. On the interior, the sanctuary is divided by a center aisle with simple flush panel pews to each side. The end boards and the backs of the pews have delicate beaded borders around each panel. The ceiling is vaulted and marked by plaster ribs. Large timber tie beams stretch across to connect the side walls. Lighting the sanctuary are elaborate Victorian chandeliers and wall sconces. Greek Revival influences can be seen in the door surrounds. Surrounding the church is a nineteenth- and twentieth-century cemetery. In 1986, a single-story frame parish hall was erected west of the church and oriented on a perpendicular axis.

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Continuation Sheet**

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Grace Episcopal Church is located on the southwest side of Mount Vernon Road three miles west of Princess Anne, Somerset County, Maryland. The single-story church faces west with the gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Erected in 1846-1847, the single-story, three-bay frame church is supported by a minimal common bond brick foundation, and the rectangular structure is sheathed with vinyl siding. In applying the artificial siding, no original exterior fabric was disturbed. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A slightly shorter gabled section extends from the east end which contains the altar and sacristy. The church cemetery surrounds the church on three sides.

The west (principal) elevation is marked by a single Gothic arched double-door opening on the first floor. The long paneled doors have Greek thumb inset moldings. The multi-pane transom has a pointed arch. Likewise, the upper gable is pierced by a Gothic arched sash window, and the gable end is trimmed with a plain bargeboard.

Each lateral side of the church is finished in a similar fashion with three diamond-pane Gothic arched sash windows. The upper portion of the windows have large arched muntins that conform to the Gothic point of the window. The cornice is boxed and trimmed with a plain bed molding.

The east end of the main block is largely covered by a shorter gable roofed altar and shed-roofed sacristy. The east gable end of the main block as well as the east end of the altar are finished with a molded cornice that defines a pediment. Pierced by a tripartite window in the east end, the altar space has slender colored glass lancet windows in each side. The one-room sacristy extends from the north side of the altar. A Gothic arched door opening marks the east side of the sacristy. A single-panel door is topped by a pointed arch transom.

See Continuation Sheet 7.2

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The interior finishes of the church building have not been significantly altered since 1847. The sanctuary is divided by a center aisle with simple flush panel pews to each side. The end boards and the backs of the pews have delicate beaded borders around each panel. The ceiling is vaulted and marked by plaster ribs which divide the arch in four chords. Large timber tie beams stretch across to connect the side walls. Lighting the sanctuary are elaborate Victorian chandeliers and wall sconces. Greek Revival influences can be seen in the door surrounds.

The raised altar is distinguished by a semi-circular vault and a wooden screen consisting of plain support posts, decorative brackets, and a wooden arch topped by a cross. A turned baluster altar rail separates the altar table from the main sanctuary. Opening into the sacristy is a Gothic arched door opening. The two-panel door is topped by a colored glass transom. A mid nineteenth-century box lock survives on the door with its small brass knobs. The remaining altar furniture including the pulpit, choir chairs, and altar table dates from the late nineteenth century.

Surrounding the church is a nineteenth- and twentieth-century cemetery. In 1986, a single-story frame parish hall was erected west of the church and oriented on a perpendicular axis.

8. Statement of Significance

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

1846-1847

Significant Dates

1846-1847

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

Erected in 1846-1847, Grace Episcopal Church is the earliest of the extant Gothic Revival churches in Somerset County. The mid-nineteenth century was a period of growth in Somerset County. In response to this growth, several churches were built, particularly for the Methodist, who were experiencing rapid expansion in membership, and for the Episcopalians, who were reorganizing and rebuilding following a decline after the Revolution. The prevailing architectural styles utilized for these building are the Greek Revival, of which only two stand, and the Gothic Revival, which appears to have been the most commonly built. Of the Gothic Revival examples, the predominant examples exhibit the board-and-batten influence as published in Upjohn's Rural Architecture. Grace Episcopal Church, however, exhibits Greek Revival overtones in the simple rectangular shape and use of decorative corner blocks in the door and window surrounds but is clearly Gothic in the steeply pitched roof and large lancet arches of the window and door openings. Of additional architectural significance is the integrity of the interior of Grace Episcopal Church. The interior retains nearly all of its original decorative, as well as functional, features: pews, rood screen, altar furniture, chandeliers, and sconces.

See continuation sheet 8.1

Vestry minutes of Grace Protestant Episcopal Church, 1845 to the present, Grace P.E. Church, Mt. Vernon, Somerset County, Maryland.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Somerset County, Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.

Touart, Paul Baker. Somerset: An Architectural History. Published for Maryland Historical Trust and Somerset County Historical Trust, 1990, pp 65 and 319-336.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 2.5 acres

USGS Quad: Monie, Maryland

UTM References

A

1	8	4	3	2	6	8	0	4	2	3	2	9	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet 10.1

Boundary Justification

The 2.5 acres included with this nomination is the current parcel of land that Grace Episcopal Church and cemetery occupy.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Baker Touart, Architectural Historian
 organization Somerset County Historical Trust date 10/14/87
 street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone (301)651-1094
 city or town Westover state Maryland zip code 21871

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
Agricultural-Industrial Transition - A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):
Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):
RELIGION/religious structure
FUNERARY/cemetery

Known Design Source: Unknown

See Continuation Sheet 8.2

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

Grace Episcopal Church as organized in the spring of 1845 is an effort to serve the Hungary Neck residents of Somerset County living too far from All Saints Church at Monie or St. Andrew's Church in Princess Anne. Concurrent with the formation of the congregation was the designation of Wicomico Parish, at the time encompassing the tenth election district of Somerset County.

The vestry minutes from the period indicate the initial meetings were held at the "Witch Bridge School," beginning on April 12, 1845. At the first meeting the preamble and resolutions were adopted, and the first vestry was elected. Sitting on the initial vestry were Edmund Crosdale, Thomas W. Stone, Levin K. Leatherbury, Joseph B. Cottman, Isaac S. Atkinson, Alexander Jones, and William D. Bounds. The Reverend Meyer Lewin was approved as the first rector.

During the May vestry meeting, a building committee was established, consisting of the rector, Reverend Lewin, Alexander Jones, Levin K. Leatherbury, Isaac S. Atkinson, and Edmund Crosdale. In the fall of 1845, Alexander Jones and his wife, Elizabeth, donated the church ground to the vestry, and by February of 1847, meetings were held in the new building. There is no mention of the specific craftsmen responsible for the work.

In Somerset County, prominent Upjohn influenced churches are St. Paul's Episcopal Church (S-79) at Tulls Corner, built in 1848, and All Saints Church at Monie (S-355) near Venton, built in 1881.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

All that lot or parcel of land situate in Mt. Vernon Election District, Somerset County, Maryland, beginning for the same at a concrete post set on the west side of the State Road leading from Princess Anne to Mt. Vernon and at the northeast corner of the lot conveyed by the aforesaid grantors to Neary McIntyre and wife, from thence south 84°30' west 175 feet to another cement post, thence north 5°30' west 280.5 feet to a cement post, thence north 84°30' east 175 feet to a concrete post set on the west side of the aforesaid State Road, thence south 5°30' east 280.5 feet by and with the aforesaid State Road to the place of beginning, containing 2.5 acres more or less.

See Continuation Sheet 10.2

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BOUNDARY MAP

