

PH028 0348

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Calvert
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: NOV 12 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Christ Church
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: SW of Port Republic Maryland 264
Broome Island Road; Maryland Route 264
CITY OR TOWN: Port Republic
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First
STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Calvert CODE: 009

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY: Building, Structure, Object
OWNERSHIP: Private
STATUS: Occupied
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Unrestricted
PRESENT USE: Religious

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

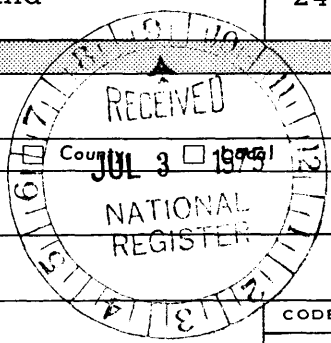
OWNER'S NAME: The Vestry of Christ Church Parish
STREET AND NUMBER: Broome Island Road; Maryland Route 264
CITY OR TOWN: Port Republic
STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Calvert County Court House
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street
CITY OR TOWN: Prince Frederick
STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
DATE OF SURVEY:
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland
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ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 12 1975
DATE:
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(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

Christ Church was erected in 1772 and, as it stands today, retains its colonial character and form. Subsequent renovations in 1792, 1838, 1862, 1882, 1906, 1928-29, 1946-50, and 1968 make it an interesting illustration of rural ecclesiastical architectural development. This section will describe first the church as it is today. Then, stepping back into history, it will give a possible description of the church as it appeared originally and after each important modification.

The church today is of brick construction; its exterior is covered with stucco. It has a sharply peaked roof with gables at the front and back, or the east and west ends of the church. The gables have scroll brackets. The sides of the church have five bays; each bay has double stained glass round headed windows. There are buttresses at the corners of the building. At the front there is a small exterior vestibule or entryway and a small open belfry. At the northeast corner of the rear of the church there is a modern sacristy. The interior of the church is plastered and painted white. The nave has three aisles; the pews face the east end of the church where the altar is located except those at the front of the church on either side of the altar. Though rearranged, the pews are constructed with the materials of the early box pews; in fact, the doors of the original pews have been used as end pieces on the present ones, as witnessed by the existence in places of the old hardware and traces of it in others.

An earlier building, dating from 1672 or before, the exact location of which is unknown served the original parish and was probably simple log or frame construction. It was destroyed by fire in 1731 and replaced in 1735 by a brick church on the present site. It is not possible to describe this second church, but it had a separate vestry room built outside the main building, traces of the foundation of which can still be seen to the northeast of the present structure.

By 1769 this church was in need of repair and rebuilding, and construction of a new church on the same site using materials of the old was completed in 1772. Some of the old bricks from the 1735 building measure only 4" by 2" by 2". Perhaps because of the use of old bricks and bricks of differing sizes the exterior of the church was covered with a mortar slip or plaster. The 1772 church with modifications has remained in continuous use until today, a period of over 200 years.

The church was renovated in 1792 and again in 1838-39. From a description of the church before this latter renovation, it is clear that it had covered brick porches of the north and south sides and a center aisle running across the main axis of the church between the two porches. Entrance to the gallery, used exclusively by Blacks, was by steps outside

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. 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 type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1772

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

Christ Church is significant both historically and architecturally, as the mother Episcopal Church of Calvert County and its oldest continually worshipping congregation and as a fine country church which retains its colonial character.

1672 is the usual date given for the founding of the parish; the Parish Register, which is still in existence, has an entry for that year recording the birth of Mary Myles on April 24. The Reverend John Yeo preached at Christ Church during the 70's, and it is probable that he was the first pastor. Mary Taney, wife of the sheriff of Calvert County and one of the forebearers of Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, and Francis Mauldin, who donated the land for the first church, were among the leading citizens of Calvert County who were instrumental in the founding of the new church.

The Act of Establishment of 1692 not only established the Church of England as a state-supported religion, but specifically mentioned Christ Church Parish and defined its boundaries. These included all of what is now Calvert County south of Hunting Creek. From the earliest days the parish was so large as to be unwieldy. A chapel of ease, Middleham Chapel, a National Register nomination had been established, it is thought, in 1684. The new Act also authorized the freeholders, 537 "taxables" out of a total estimated population of about 1,600, to name six vestrymen for the parish. The six, all from families of historic importance in the county, were Captain Thomas Claggett, Henry Farnley, Samuel Hollingsworth, Francis Malden (or Mauldin), John Manning and Richard Smith. Under the Act the vestry was empowered to collect 40 pounds of tobacco from each "taxable" in the parish, whatever his religion, to support the church. Parson Weems, the celebrated biographer of George Washington, preached at Christ Church, and the Reverend Jonathan Cay, whose tombstone lies near the eastern wall of the church, was rector from 1715 to 1735.

The first confirmation service at Christ Church took place on May 4, 1974. Bishop Thomas J. Claggett, the first Bishop of Maryland and the first Episcopal bishop ordained in the United States, whose father had been rector of Christ

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1772

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fleming, John R. "The Story of Old Christ Church." 1972. Inventory of Church Archives of Maryland. Maryland Records Survey Project, 1940.
 Rightmyer, N.W. Maryland's Established Church. 1956. Parishes of the Diocese of Maryland. 1960.
 Skirven, Percy S. First Parishes of the Province of Maryland. 1942.
 (All sources are available at the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	38°	31'	43"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William M. Plummer, Rector

ORGANIZATION: **Christ Church Parish** DATE: **April 3, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broome Island Road

CITY OR TOWN: **Port Republic** 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 John N. Pearce
 John N. Pearce
 Acting Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date June 6, 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Acting John A. Pearce
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/12/95

ATTEST:
Wesley
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **NOV 11 1975**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Calvert	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 1001-12	DATE 1975

(Number all entries)

Christ Church

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

the south wall. In 1838-39, the brick porches were torn down; and the door at the west end became the principal entrance to the church. The side doors were replaced by bays of windows. As a result of these changes, the old box pews were rearranged into their present alignment. A partition was placed across the nave at the west end creating a vestibule in the center with a room at either side.

Although repairs were carried out in 1862 and 1882, a major reconstruction was required in 1906 to repair and rebuild the walls which had been seriously damaged by years of rainfall weakening their foundations. Portions of the walls were rebuilt using old brick where possible, abutments were added at the corners, and gutters with deep concrete foundations were put down at the base of all four walls.

Following repairs in 1928-29 and 1946-50 the sacristy was added in 1968. Space was gained for a choir by removing the upper portion of the 1838-39 wall at the rear of the church. Modern stained glass windows have replaced the old clear glass.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Church in 1748-49, conducted the service. The church survived the War of 1812 without serious injury and was finally concentrated in 1842, almost 200 years after its founding. Christ Church celebrated its 300th Anniversary in 1972 and continues to be an important center of life in Calvert County.

The architectural significance derives from its evolution from the eighteenth century to the present. The Church incorporated the form and fabric associated with eighteenth century ecclesiastical tidewater architecture. The bell cot and buttresses are drawn from the Gothic Revival. The heavy scroll brackets, window treatment, and plaster covering of the brickwalls have nineteenth century sources, most particularly in domestic architecture; and the stained glass windows reflect the taste of the mid-twentieth century.

