

PH 0365718

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED APR 18 1977  
DATE ENTERED NOV 23 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC St. Luke's Church  
 AND/OR COMMON

St. Luke's P.E. Church, Church Hill

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMB West side Maryland Route 213, at its intersection with  
Maryland Route 19

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE  
24

COUNTY  
Queen Anne's

CODE  
035

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Wardens and Vestry of St. Luke's Episcopal Parish

STREET & NUMBER  
c/o The Rev. William E. Ticknor, Church Lane

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
Maryland 21623

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE  
Maryland 21617

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD-exterior	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR-interior	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Luke's Episcopal Church stands on the west side of Old Maryland Route 213 at its intersection with Maryland Route 19 in the town of Church Hill, Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Built between 1729 and 1732, the church is one story high, five bays long and three bays wide, with brick exterior walls laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. Narrow buttresses separate the windows on the side; the tall windows, topped with semi-circular brick arches, have twenty-two-over-sixteen sash, and were originally partially shuttered. The church was constructed with three entrances: large doors in the center of the north and south walls, and a smaller slaves' entrance in the west end. The side entrances have been converted into windows, however, and the west door enlarged to form the main entrance. Its double doors with fanlight give access to a square Italianate tower that was added in 1881, and which features narrow, recessed windows on its second-story level, decorative brickwork below the cornice and a low hip roof. The gambrel roof of the main structure is distinctive in itself, and its use on the semi-circular apse, as well, is an unusual feature on the Eastern Shore. It is covered with cypress shingles and has a simple wooden cornice. The roof originally featured a bell cote on the west gable that supported a 180-pound bell; this was removed, however, only ten years after the building was completed.

The interior of St. Luke's has been considerably altered in the course of several renovations. Its aisle plan was originally more complex, with two aisles running the length of the building, and bisected by another aisle connecting the north and south doors. The tall pulpit with reading desk below was located on the north wall, immediately to the east of the north entrance. Brick tiles were used to pave the aisles, and the floors of the forty-four box pews were paved with stone. The interior walls were plastered and the ceiling barrel-vaulted then, as now, but a slave gallery stood at the west end of the church.

In 1841, a wooden floor and double-hung sash were installed in the church, and the roof and pews were reconditioned. Heavily damaged by its use as a billet for Union Cavalry during the Civil War, St. Luke's was thoroughly renovated in 1881: on the outside, the entrance tower was added, the north and south doors were eliminated, and new windows with stained glass were installed. The current seating plan was instituted, with a single center aisle and walnut bench pews; the slave gallery was removed, the chancel furniture replaced, and wainscoting added. St. Luke's was partially restored to its 18th cent. appearance in 1957, when small-paned sash with clear glass replaced the nineteenth-century stained glass. The church sits on a well-landscaped two acres, sharing the property with a small cemetery and an early nineteenth-century brick schoolhouse that is used as a parish house. In excellent repair, St. Luke's is an active church and is open to visitors.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Sept. 1730-1732

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Rev. John Lang (Rector)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the oldest colonial Episcopal churches still in use, St. Luke's Church in Church Hill, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, is interesting both from the standpoint of architecture and of history. The design of the building, featuring a gambrel roof, high barrel vault ceiling and semi-circular apse, is unusual for the period: only two other eighteenth-century Maryland churches, for instance, incorporate the semi-circular apse, known at the time as the "circle". This was a medieval holdover, of sorts, and frowned upon by proponents of the academic style. St. Luke's is made more distinctive by the use of a gambrel roof on both the main structure and the apse.

From the late seventeenth century, this had been the site of one of the three chapels of ease of St. Pauls' parish. A simple log building, called the "Up River Chapel", was sufficient for the needs of the inhabitants of the area around present-day Church Hill. By 1728, however, the local population had outgrown the chapel, and the incumbent's once-monthly visits. Two hundred fifty-four Queen Anne's County inhabitants of St. Paul's Parish petitioned the Maryland Assembly in that year, seeking the establishment of a new parish. Their request was granted, and in 1729 the Reverend John Lang was sent from England to supervise the erection of St. Luke's parish and the new parish church. Area residents raised the money for the building by subscription. When completed in 1732, St. Luke's Church had cost 140,000 pounds of tobacco, or about 584 pounds sterling. It was built on a hill near the head of Southeast Creek, a tributary of the Chester River, in the northern part of Queen Anne's County. There was no town at this early date but gradually the hill came to be called Church Hill, and a village of the same name grew up around the parish church.

St. Luke's was used regularly until 1791, when it was virtually abandoned for thirty-two years; once again between 1830 and 1840 the church was not in use. Since 1841, however, when a revival and renovation took place, St. Luke's has been continuously staffed, and has had an active congregation. The extant parish records, preserved in the county courthouse in Centreville and at the Hall of Records in Annapolis, reflect this uneven history.

See continuation sheet #1

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Church Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis  
 Emory, Frederic, ed. Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Baltimore: The  
 Maryland Historical Society, 1950.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	4, 1, 4, 7, 6, 0	4, 3, 3, 2, 8, 0, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Robert B. Hilleary, President/Randolph M. Cornell, Summer Intern

ORGANIZATION

Episcopal Churchwoman of St. Luke's/Maryland Historical Trust

8/76

DATE

Intern

758-0897

267-1438

STREET & NUMBER

Waltham Farm/21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville/Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21617/21401

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*John N. Pearce* 4/14/77  
 SHPO DATE

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Robert B. Rettig*

DATE

11/23/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Charles H. Murray*

DATE

11-17-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Queen Anne's County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET      ITEM NUMBER 8      PAGE 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The church was used as a billet for a company of Union Cavalry during the Civil War; it is said that at this time the original window panes were broken and the pews and pulpit used for firewood. In 1881 the church was considerably altered in the course of another renovation: the last twenty years have seen some efforts at restoring the church and grounds to their eighteenth-century appearance.

On the same property stands a small brick building which is used as a parish house. Built in 1817 as a schoolhouse, the building still contains blackboards and benches of that era, and is reputed to be the oldest school in Queen Anne's County.