

PH0026166

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Prince George's
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	APR 8 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
St. John's Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
St. John's (Broadcreek) of the Protestant Episcopal Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
9801 Livingston Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Oxon Hill

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Fourth

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Prince George's CODE: 033

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress			

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

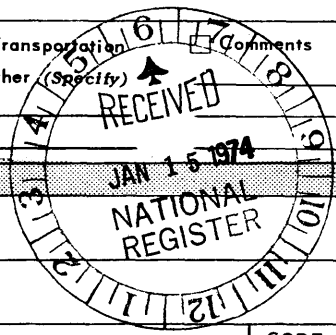
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Vestry of King George Parish

STREET AND NUMBER:  
9801 Livingston Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Oxon Hill

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Prince George's County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Upper Marlboro

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1st Street S.E. between E. Capitol St. and Independence Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered  Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building is a rectangular brick structure with a bell hipped roof. The main (west) facade has a small straight-gabled porch with two arched openings along the flanks and an arched entranceway; it is a later addition to the structure. There are two windows flanking the porch on the main and balcony levels of the facade; these two are believed to be later additions. The north side wall is four bays; the window openings are square-headed with the regular Flemish bond coursing of the walls carried over them without relieving arches. The south side wall is three bays, the center bay being a double door; all openings are square headed with segmental relieving arches infilled with brick between the soffit of the arch and the window frame. At the east end, a round window has replaced the original square-headed opening; patchwork for the former window shows it to have had a relieving arch like those on the south wall. A boxed cornice with bed moulding replaces an earlier cornice.

The interior is a single large rectangular space with a balcony at the west end; the ceiling and wall plaster has been removed as part of the restoration now being carried out. The exposed brick walls have nailers for furring strips set into the brick at points about one third and two thirds of the distance from the floor to the wall plate. The openings have wooden lintels (except where they have been replaced by thinner metal strips over two windows on the north facade). Three large tie beams, mortised into the wall plates, divide the space into four bays; the beams were once plastered, although more recently they were boxed and are now exposed.

The balcony at the west end is supported by tie beams and posts. A beam across the west wall supports the balcony's floor joists, which extend across the beam and are also mortised into the west wall. Another beam supports the east end of the balcony; it is mortised into the side walls and is also supported by posts. The floor joists of the balcony are exposed and beaded on both edges. The balustrade consists of stiles with raised panels. The present balcony replaces an earlier one that projected farther into the room at a slightly higher level; mortises for the tie beam and floor joists for this earlier balcony are visible in the brickwork.

The present brick and concrete floor is of recent date. The only surviving evidence for the original floor level is the thickening of the west wall by about six inches near the base; the shelf thus created probably carried the original floor joists. Although the floor under the balcony has been lowered, the floor of the sanctuary (a step higher) is probably about

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1767-1768**

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

St. John's Church, Broadcreek, is an important mid-eighteenth century ecclesiastical structure. The barrel vaulted ceiling with its intricate support system and the bell hipped roof comprise two of the elements which give this church architectural distinction. The plain, box-like exterior with the southern entrance, gives the structure a domestic appearance indicative of the Low Church religious attitudes of the Age of Enlightenment. The addition of a porch formalizing the west entrance and the permanent closing of the south door predictably occurred in the nineteenth century concurrently with the Gothic Revival and with increased religiosity. The stained glass windows provide another instance of physical changes to conform with current ecclesiastical attitudes. The present restoration reflects not a change in religious attitudes but rather the growing public interest in the preservation of eighteenth century, "colonial" structures.

The present structure is the fourth building on the same site. The vestry records contain the specifications for each of the churches which enables the precise dating of the extant St. John's to 1767-1768.

In 1692 when Maryland became a royal colony with an established church the assembly created several parishes including King George which stretched from Charles County to Pennsylvania.

The first vestry meeting occurred the next year at the home of Colonel John Addison, founder of the prominent Prince George's County family. Within two years the parish had constructed the first St. John's Church.

In 1710 John Fraser became the first priest at St. John's Church. Previously, the parish had been served either by lay readers or by incumbents from neighboring parishes. Reverend Fraser's reply to a query from the Bishop of London in 1724 gives a brief picture of the parish at that time. There were 400 families with 1200 taxables in an area of

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Vestry Minutes of St. John's Parish  
 Allen, Rev. Ethan. Historical Notes of Piscataway alias St. John's Parish. Copy of mss. at St. John's (Broadcreek).  
 Heinton, Louise. Prince George's Heritage. Baltimore: The Maryland Historical Society, 1972.  
 Wilfong, James. "Salubria." Prince George's Post. 24 April 1969, pp. 17,32.

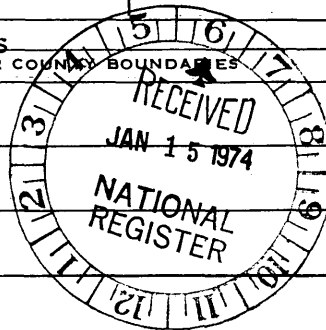
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38 ° 45 ' 18 "	77 ° 00 ' 04 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: three acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Comm. DATE: 26 July 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring 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

Date January 11, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Arthur W. Guss  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/18/74

ATTEST:  
Ronald M. Guebergh  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 4/4/74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)#1

STATE Maryland	
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(Number all entries)

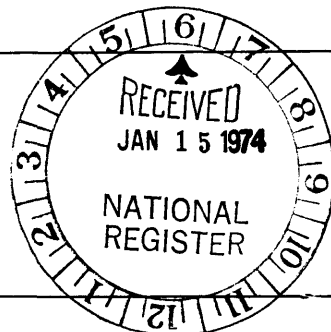
#7 Description (Continued)

at the level of the original floor. The double doors on the south wall had to be shortened when the present floor was installed, suggesting their alteration at some earlier date when the floor was lowered.

The roof framing employs a principal and common rafter system, with the three principal rafters positioned over the tie beams and five common rafters between the principals. The principal rafters are notched on the outside edge at midpoint and the single purlin sits in the notch. Angle braces are mortised and tenoned into the principal rafters near their bases and then into the lower side of the purlins. Common rafters run from the plate to the purlin and from the purlin to the ridge. The lower run are mortised into the plate and into the lower side of the purlin; the upper run are mortised into the upper side of the purlin and are half-lapped and pegged together at the ridge. Collars, all about the dimensions of a common rafter, are half-lapped over both principal and common rafters just above the purlin. On the end hips, all the rafters are common and are mortised into either side of the purlin and run either from plate to purlin or from purlin to angled corner rafters, which in turn are mortised and tenoned together at the ridge.

The supporting members for the barrel vault spring from inside the wall plate. They are suspended from the collars at three points by rough-cut boards nailed onto both the collars and the arches. There is one arch for each principal and common rafter. On the end walls, where the vault angles inward, furring strips are nailed directly onto the rafters.

The congregation, with Orin Bullock as a consultant, is currently working on a restoration of the church. A new roof, replastering the vault, and a new exterior cornice are the first elements of the restoration work. Eventually, the congregation hopes to replace the balcony with one conforming to the original dimensions. The work is being done by church members, who are carefully checking the remaining fabric for clues of former appearance as they remove existing elements.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet) # 2

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(Number all entries)

#8 Significance (Continued)

about 900 square miles. Service was held three Sundays a month at Broadcreek, one Sunday a month at a chapel, one weekday at "the new settlement" and another weekday from Easter to Michaelmas at "another corner of my Parish inconvenient to Church or Chapel." In addition, he reported that he had accepted the parish only because of his "wife's real estate being in the parish." (His wife, the former Ann Smallwood, had inherited "Blue Plains" near Oxon Hill.)

Henry Addison, a descendant of Colonel Joseph Addison, became the second minister in 1742. His tenure is noted for the construction of the present St. John's Church as well as improvement of two chapels of ease: the Upper Chapel (St. Matthew's Church, Seat Pleasant) and the Lower Chapel (Christ Church, Accokeek). Addison's Anglicanism extended into politics. Forseeing a conflict he returned to England on September 10, 1775. His nephew, Walter Dulany Addison, of similar religious but not political leanings, became rector of St. John's after the Revolution. The younger Addison was the first priest ordained in America by Thomas John Claggett, the first Episcopal bishop consecrated in the United States.

