A plain but attractive brick structure, Old Durham is the second oldest example of colonial ecclesiastical architecture in Charles County and the oldest and best known of the five surviving 18th century Episcopal churches.

Located in the once remote western section of the county, Durham Parish dates from the 1692 Act of the General Assembly establishing four Protestant parishes in the county. The original log chapel was replaced in 1732 by a one-story, Flemish bond brick structure that makes up the first floor level of the existing building. Displaying attractively executed brickwork enhanced by glazed headers, the 1732 structure has a chamfered watertable, a door in the east and west ends and a third door, the main entrance, centered on the south side. The building was five bays in width on both side elevations. In 1791-93 the original structure was raised to two-stories. At this time, galleries were installed across the two ends and south side of the interior. Beginning in 1843 extensive repairs and alterations were made, including the bricking in of the east and south doors, removal of the east and south galleries and the rebuilding of the west gallery, the move of the altar to the east end, and the construction of a brick vestry wing off the east end. The roof was also rebuilt and new interior woodwork and altar furniture installed. A brick memorial wall fronting the church yard was built in 1932 and a bell tower added to the east end of the vestry in 1942.

Still in use by the church is communion silver dated 1707. The large, tree shaded cemetery contains several 17th and early 18th century stones, some of which were moved here from abandoned private cemeteries in the area. Among Old Durham's early parishioners was General William Smallwood of Revolutionary War fame and George Washington is known to have attended services here in the company of his friend, General Smallwood.
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME
HISTORIC
OLD DURHAM CHURCH (Christ Church; Episcopal)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
Ironsides Riverside Road (MD 425) and East side of junction of Durham Church Road

CITY, TOWN
Ironsides

VICINITY OF
1st

STATE
Maryland

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
DISTRICT
BUILDING(S) X
STRUCTURE
SITE
OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
X OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
YES RESTRICTED
X YES: UNRESTRICTED
NO

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
PARK
EDUCATIONAL
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
ENTERTAINMENT
X RELIGIOUS
GOVERNMENT
INDUSTRIAL
TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY
OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Episcopal Diocese of Washington

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Washington, D.C.

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE:
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE
Old Durham, the best known of Charles County's five eighteenth century Protestant churches, occupies a secluded rural location in the southwest section of the county.

A rectangular, two-story brick structure, Old Durham began as a one-story building with Flemish bond brickwork above a chamfered, English bond watertable. With scored mortar joints and a profusion of glazed headers, the latter providing a highly (though at times incomplete) decorative effect, the masonry of this portion of the church is one of the best preserved examples of eighteenth century brick construction in the county. Although not many details of the original structure are known, it is evident that it had a door in its west end and a second door centered on the south side elevation, the latter subsequently bricked in and a window installed in its place. The windows and doors probably once had segmental arches, but these were removed and rebuilt when the church was enlarged. The roof design is unknown. It is possible that it was hipped, a popular roof plan at the time Old Durham was built.

In 1791-93 the roof of the earlier building was removed and the walls raised to a full two-story height. It was at this time that interior galleries were added to the south, east and west sides. It is interesting to note that the second floor brickwork, while Flemish bond on the south side (the original front), is of contrasting English bond on the three remaining sides. The gables, however, are of common bond and may have been rebuilt during later renovations. It appears to have been at this time that the arches of the earlier windows and doors were removed and replaced by the existing splayed flat arches.

In the mid-nineteenth century, c. 1843, the later eighteenth century roof was replaced by the present roof with eave overhangs on all four sides and exposed rafter ends. The gables were also apparently rebuilt, being of common bond brick above the eave line. It is probable that the bricking in of the three second floor windows in the east end occurred at this time, as well as the addition of a vestry room at the east end. Of common bond brick with brick dentiled cornices, the addition has one window in each side elevation and a single door in its east end, the latter now opening into a brick belltower added in 1942. Other alterations included the installation of the existing front door and, on the interior, new pews and altar furniture. The altar was moved from the north wall to the east end and the east and south galleries removed. The west gallery was substantially rebuilt and has supporting columns, stairs and balustrades of Victorian styling.

(continued on attached sheet)
SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

1400-1499
1500-1599
1600-1699
1700-1799
1800-1899
1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC
AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE
ART
COMMUNITY PLANNING
CONSERVATION
ECONOMICS
EDUCATION
ENGINEERING
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
INDUSTRY
INVENTION
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
LAW
LITERATURE
MILITARY
MUSIC
PHILOSOPHY
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
RELIGION
SCIENCE
SCULPTURE
SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
THEATER
TRANSPORTATION
OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1732; 1791-93

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A plain but attractive brick structure, Old Durham is the second oldest example of colonial ecclesiastical architecture in Charles County and the oldest and best known of the five surviving 18th century Episcopal churches.

Located in the once remote western section of the county, Durham Parish dates from the 1692 Act of the General Assembly, establishing four Protestant parishes in the county. The original log chapel was replaced in 1732 by a one-story, Flemish bond brick structure that makes up the first floor level of the existing building. Displaying attractively executed brickwork enhanced by glazed headers, the 1732 structure has a chamfered watertable, a door in the east and west ends and a third door, the main entrance, centered on the south side. The building was five bays in width on both side elevations. In 1791-93 the original structure was raised to two-stories. At this time, galleries were installed across the two ends and south side of the interior. Beginning in 1843 extensive repairs and alterations were made, including the bricking in of the east and south doors, removal of the east and south galleries and the rebuilding of the west gallery, the move of the altar to the east end, and the construction of a brick vestry wing off the east end. The roof was also rebuilt and new interior woodwork and altar furniture installed. A brick memorial wall fronting the church yard was built in 1932 and a bell tower added to the east end of the vestry in 1942.

Still in use by the church is communion silver dated 1707. The large, tree-shaded cemetery contains several 17th and early 18th century stones, some of which were moved here from abandoned private cemeteries in the area. Among Old Durham's early parishioners was General William Smallwood of Revolutionary War fame and George Washington is known to have attended services here in the company of his friend, General Smallwood.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438
Old Durham has what is considered to be the most visually appealing situation of the five eighteenth century Protestant churches in the county. The tree-shaded cemetery surrounding the church contains many early graves, several of which date from the late 17th century. A few of the earliest graves, as well as those of several Revolutionary-era patriots, have been moved here from abandoned family cemeteries located elsewhere in the county. To the left of the walk leading to the west entrance is an early sundial that for more than a century was used to establish the time of services.

In 1932 the Colonial Dame of Maryland erected a commemorative wall fronting the church yard of eighteenth century brick salvaged from a Port Tobacco building. In more recent years a new parish hall and rectory were built nearby.
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

*(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)*

### 1. NAME

| COMMON: | OLD DURHAM CHURCH |

**AND/OR HISTORIC:**_

### 2. LOCATION

| STREET AND NUMBER: | IRONSIDES |

| CITY OR TOWN: | CHARLES |

| STATE: | MARYLAND |

| CODE: | CHARLES |

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |

| District | Building | Public | Public Acquisition | Occupied | Yes: |

| Site | Structure | Private | In Process | Unoccupied | Restricted |

| Object | | Both | Being Considered | Preservation work in process | Unrestricted |

**PRESENT USE** *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

| Agricultural | Government | Park | Transportation | Comments |

| Commercial | Industrial | Private Residence | Other (Specify) | |

| Educational | Military | Religious | |

| Entertainment | Museum | Scientific | |

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

**OWNERS NAME:**

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

| STREET AND NUMBER: | |

| CITY OR TOWN: | BALTIMORE AND WASHINGTON, D.C. |

| STATE: | MARYLAND |

| CODE: | |

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:**

| EPISCOPAL DIOCESE COLLECTION |

| CHARLES COUNTY COURTHOUSE |

| STREET AND NUMBER: | |

| CITY OR TOWN: | BALTIMORE LA PLATA |

| STATE: | MARYLAND |

| CODE: | |

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE OF SURVEY:**

**DATE OF SURVEY:**

| Federal | State | County | Local |

| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: | |

| STREET AND NUMBER: | |

| CITY OR TOWN: | |

| STATE: | |

| CODE: | |
A CHARMINg COLONIAL CHURCH WITH "A" PLAN ROOF, DOUBLE FRONT DOOR WITH TWO WINDOWS ABOVE, FIVE BAYS IN LENGTH ON 1ST. + 2ND LEVEL WITH BRICK WALLS LAYED IN BOOY, + WATER TOWER.

WINDOWS ON THE 1ST. LEVEL ARE FROM THE ORIGINAL 1732 STRUCTURE AND POSSESS 8/8 PAPES. THE 2ND. LEVEL (1792) ARE SMALLER AND ARE 6/6.

THE INTERIOR WALL TREATMENT IS PLASTER. THE COMMON ROOM CONTAINS A CENTER AISLE, WOOD Pews AND REAR 2ND LEVEL GALLERY.

A BELL TOWER AT THE REAR, CONNECTED TO THE MAIN BLOCK BY A BRICK MYPHEN, IS A 20TH. CENTURY ADDITION, THIS IS ALSO TRUE OF THE WALL ACROSS THE FRONT AREA OF THE CEMETERY.

THE CHURCH AND GROUNDS ARE IN A GOOD STATE OF REPAIR.
**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

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<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>19th Century</td>
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**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- Aboriginal
- Prehistoric
- Historic
- Agriculture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communications
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape
- Architecture
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Political
- Religion/Philosophy
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

ONE OF MDS. ORIG. 30 PARISHES — 1692 EARLIER CHURCH STOOD ON SAME SITE. CHURCH SUPPORTED BY GEN. Wm. SMALLWOOD (OF REV. WAR FAME) + AND ATTENDED BY BOTH HIM AND OCCASIONALLY HIS CLOSE FRIEND GEN. WASHINGTON.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
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<th>LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE</th>
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<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries:

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: DI R RUBIRE
ORGANIZATION: M.D. HIST. TRUST
STREET AND NUMBER: BOX 1904
CITY OR TOWN: ANNAPOLIS
STATE: M.D.

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: ____________________________
Title: ____________________________
Date: ____________________________

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

______________________________
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: ____________________________
ATTEST:

______________________________
Keeper of The National Register

Date: ____________________________
CHAS-63
OLD DURHAM CHURCH (Christ Church
View From NW JRRivoire, 1978
CHAS-63
OLD DURHAM CHURCH
NW View  J.R. Rivoire, 1978
CHAS-63
OLD DURHAM CHURCH, Masonry
Detail  J.R.Rivoire, 1978