

CHAS-63  
OLD DURHAM CHURCH (Christ Church, Episcopal)  
Ironsides  
Private

1732, 1792 and later

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 parishoners 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

CHAS-63

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY *W.H.I. #0900 34108*

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

OLD DURHAM CHURCH (Christ Church; Episcopal)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

East side of junction of Ironsides Riverside Road (MD 425) and Durham Church Road

CITY, TOWN

Ironsides

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Charles

**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

Episcopal Diocese of Washington

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.     VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL     STATE     COUNTY     LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

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)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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      1732; 1791-93      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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 parishoners 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

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

645-6537

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

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

Continuation of #7 (Description)--OLD DURHAM CHURCH

Page 2

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.

N. R. FIELD S

CH 63 54

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
OLD DURHAM CHURCH

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
IRONSIDES

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: MARYLAND      CODE:      COUNTY: CHARLES      CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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 type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:  
EPISCOPAL DIOC- of MARYLAND

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: BALTIMORE, MARYLAND  
ADD WASHINGTON D.C.

STATE: MARYLAND      CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: EPISCOPAL DIO. COLLECTION  
CHARLES COUNTY COURTHOUSE

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: BALTIMORE, MARYLAND  
LA PLATA

STATE: MARYLAND      CODE:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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 LAID IN BOND, + WATER TOWER.

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

THE INTERIOR WALL TREATMENT IS PLASTER. THE 1 COMMOD ROOM CONTAINS A CENTER AISLE, WOOD PEWS AND REAR 2ND LEVEL GALLERY.

A BELL TOWER AT THE REAR, UNCONNECTED TO THE MAIN BLOCK BY A brick Wyphen, 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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		

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. W.W.  
 SMALLWOOD (OF REV. WAR FAME) + AND  
 ATTENDED BY BOTH HIM AND OCCASIONALLY  
 HIS CLOSE FRIEND GEN. WASHINGTON.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

N. R. FIELD SHEET

CH-63

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**D. R. RIVOIRE**

ORGANIZATION: **MD. HIST. TRUST** DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Box 1704**

CITY OR TOWN: **ANNAP.** STATE: **MD.** CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



CHAS-63

OLD DURHAM CHURCH (Christ Church  
View From NW JRRivoire, 1978

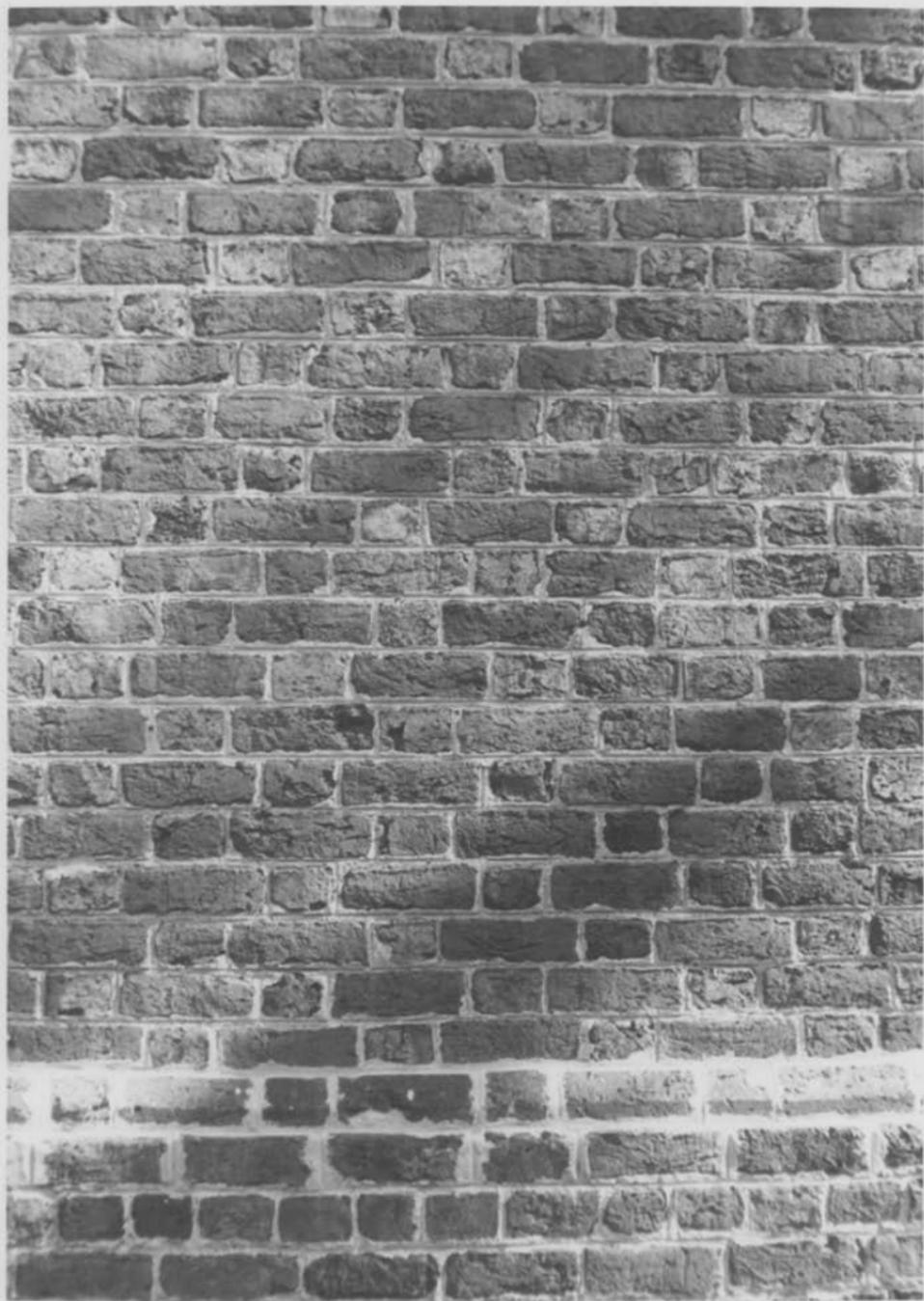


CHAS-63

— OLD DURHAM CHURCH

NW View

J.R.Rivoire, 1978



CHAS-63

— OLD DURHAM CHURCH, Masonry —  
Detail J.R.Rivoire, 1978



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