Description of Property and Eligibility Determination (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

11.3 miles west of this marker, near Ironsides, Maryland, is Old Durham Church. The original Episcopal church dates to 1692. The present building was erected in 1732. This is the oldest church in Charles County and has been served by thirty rectors since its founding. George Washington visited this church in 1771. The church was restored by Governor Smallwood n 1791.

Following the American Revolution, the 1776 Maryland Declaration of Rights ended the Anglican hegemony over religious practice. Despite the earlier periods of intolerance, Catholicism remained a strong presence in the state and flourished under the new religious freedom. Introduced in the 1770s, Methodism also became popular within the state. Other denominations were introduced to Maryland, but none were as popular as Roman Catholic, Episcopal, or the Methodist churches.

The marker, erected in 1949, is not eligible for the National Register because it simply marks an event. It is not an actual historical resource. Criterion D, information potential, was not assessed for this study.

Prepared by EHT Traceries, Inc.
OLD DURHAM CHURCH
EPISCOPAL - 1692

4 1/2 MILES WEST NEAR IRONIDES, MD.
OLDEST CHURCH IN CHARLES COUNTY
SERVED BY THIRTY RECTORA
THROUGH 237 YEARS.
PRESIDENT BISHOP ELECTED 1792.
VISTED BY GEORGE WASHINGTON 1771.
RESTORED BY GOVERNOR SMALLWOOD 1791.

MARKED BY NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA
IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
00000 CH-851
Northwest corner of Rt. 6 and 301 Junction
Charles County, MD
Traceries
June 1999
MD SHPO
View looking south
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