

1400121298M.-1- SM-12

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Maryland
COUNTY:
St. Mary's
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
St. George's Protestant Episcopal Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Poplar Hill

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: (McKays Beach Road)
South side of Md. Route 244, 1/2 mile west from intersection of

CITY OR TOWN: Md. Routes 244 and 249, Valley Lee First

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: St. Mary's CODE: 037

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (Yes/No)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Vestry of William and Mary Parish

STREET AND NUMBER:
Maryland Route 244

CITY OR TOWN: Valley Lee STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
St. Mary's County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN: Leonardtown STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

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: Maryland COUNTY: St. Mary's

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>St. George's Church (Poplar Hill) is situated on the south side of Maryland Route 244, 1/2 mile from the intersection of Maryland Routes 244 and 249 at Valley Lee.</p> <p>The existing St. George's church was built in 1799 and it is the fourth to serve the William and Mary Parish. Of the three buildings which preceded the present structure two were built on this same site, one about 1692 and another about 1760; the original, circa 1638-1642 structure, stood about fifty feet north.</p> <p>A pleasing example of rural Southern Maryland, late eighteenth century ecclesiastical architecture, the recently restored church is attractively situated within the boundaries of an old interesting cemetery. Both the cemetery and church are shaded by numerous large oak trees--several of these predating the first building.</p> <p>St. George's is a rectangular, gable roofed, Flemish bond brick structure, five bays in length at both side elevations. The facade is at the west end and is three bays in width. All of the exterior detail, including the molded architraves and denticulated eave cornices, appear to be a combination of late nineteenth century and restoration period (1958) replacements of the originals. However, the window frames themselves may be original. The only alteration to the exterior appears to be the filling in of a centered door on both side elevations and the introduction of sash windows in their place.</p> <p>The vestry records of the church document major renovations to the interior in 1884. Initially the floor plan involved two side aisles as well as a centered cross aisle. At the rear, west end, of the church was a slave gallery ascended by a single stair in the southwest corner of the first floor level. In 1884 the two exterior doors affording access to the cross aisle were removed and, as previously stated, windows were installed in their place. The gallery and stair were removed, as was the pulpit, communion table, pew doors, and apparently the floors, as well as most of the interior moldings. At this time a new vestry room was built on the east end and pictorial stained glass windows installed in place of the original, double hung sash.</p> <p>In 1958 the building had deteriorated to such an extent that most of the interior work had to be replaced. With the exception of replacing the wood floor with brick, the interior has been largely restored to its 1884 appearance. The old pews are all that remain from the 1799 interior. It was also in 1958 that the 1884 vestry room was removed and replaced by a more substantial wing containing the sacristy.</p>	
(See continuation sheet #1)	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(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)

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/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the interior of St. George's has been extensively altered from its original appearance the exterior remains largely the same. The aesthetically pleasing setting of this charming building draws numerous visitors to this site throughout the year and it is perhaps one of the best known Protestant churches in Southern Maryland.

When first established in Poplar Hill Hundred lay readers conducted the weekly services. In 1650 the Reverend William Wilkinson became the first rector; it is reputed that Wilkinson was, in fact, the first Anglican minister in Maryland.

Although another Anglican church was erected for Poplar Hill Hundred about two years before the first church at this site, its location was inconvenient to many parishoners and it was soon moved to St. Mary's City. It is therefore generally believed that St. George's is the site of the oldest Anglican church in Maryland whose parish is still in existence.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rejuvenates and Rejoices, an article in the Washington Dioscene Magazine; Washington, D.C., May, 1959.

St. George's Episcopal Church, a privately published brochure by St. George's Parish, Valley Lee, Maryland; n.d.

Admiral Felix Johnson, U.S.N. (ret.), 1968, Maryland Historical Trust survey files, 2525 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland.

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 TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38 ° 11 ' 47 "	76 ° 31 ' 23 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38 ° 11 ' 47 "	76 ° 31 ' 11 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	38 ° 11 ' 37 "	76 ° 31 ' 11 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	38 ° 11 ' 37 "	76 ° 31 ' 22 "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 23

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

J. Richard Rivoire, Field Surveyor

sdh

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

June 7, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:

2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis,

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

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

Orlando Ridout IV.

Title

State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland

Date

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

N. R. FIELD SHEET

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PSM-12

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:
Poplar Hill Church--(St. George's Episcopal)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Valley Lee, Second District, Saint Mary's

STATE: *Maryland* CODE: COUNTY: CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
District <input type="checkbox"/>	Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes:		
Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input 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:
William and Mary Parish

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: *Valley Lee* STATE: *Maryland* CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Parish Register, William and Mary Parish

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: *Valley Lee,* 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"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original church was built some time before 1642 and probably in 1638. It stood fifty feet to the northward of the present church which was built in 1799. Modifications were made in the church structure in 1830 and 1886. The church was completely renovated in 1958, the architect at this time being Milton Grigg of Charlottesville Virginia.

Four historic stones lie in the floor of the church, bearing dates of 1769, 1801, 1732 and 1806. The inscriptions on three of these stones are shown on the attached folder.

Little is known of the early days of Poplar Hill Church except that its name came from the election district in which the church was built. However we are in possession of the vestry records from 1799 up to the present so know a great deal about the later history of the church. The church has had 43 rectors of whom 14 are buried in the churchyard.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Aboriginal | Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | Political | <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric | Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Phi- | | Other (Specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic | Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> | losophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Agriculture | Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Art | Landscape | | Sculpture | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Commerce | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Human- | | _____ | |
| Communications | Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> | itarian | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Conservation | Military | <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| | Music | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |

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

See preceding page and attached folder.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Thomas "Chronicles of Colonial Maryland"
 Rightmyer "Maryland's Established Church"
 Bishop Perry "Chronicles of Early American Church"
 "Fulham Papers", Fulham Palace, London.
 Allen "Who Were The First Settlers?"

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: *Felix Johnson, Vice Admiral U.S. Navy (Ret)*

ORGANIZATION: *Historian, Poplar Hill Church* DATE: *28 Jan 1971*

STREET AND NUMBER: *Jubilee Farm,*

CITY OR TOWN: *Leonardtown* STATE: *Md.* CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY St. Mary's County TOWN Valley Lee VICINITY STREET NO.	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY SM-12
	2. NAME St. George's Spiscopal Church DATE OR PERIOD 1799 STYLE 18th Century ARCHITECT BUILDER
ORIGINAL OWNER William & Mary Parish ORIGINAL USE Episcopal Church PRESENT OWNER William & Mary Parish PRESENT USE Episcopal Church WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick NO. OF STORIES One	3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC Yes

The first St. George's Church, known as "Poplar Hill", was built some time between 1638 and 1642. It stood about fifty feet to the northward of the present church and its position was, in all probability, determined by the location of the two great oaks which stood on either side of the entrance.

Lay readers conducted services from the establishment of this church until 1650 when the Reverend William Wilkinson arrived to become the first Anglican minister on the Western Shore of Maryland. In all, forty-three ministers have served as rectors of this parish; fourteen of whom are buried in the churchyard.

We know that the present St. George's was built in 1799 while the Reverend Charles Smoot was rector. Extensive alterations were made to this church in 1884, at which time the slave gallery and pulpit were removed, the side doors were bricked up, and the stained glass windows (which were probably obtained from a Baptist Church in Philadelphia) were installed.

Renovation of the Church was effected in 1958 and the sacristy added at that time.

(continued on page 2)

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered **No** Interior **Good** Exterior **Good**

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 7. PHOTOGRAPH

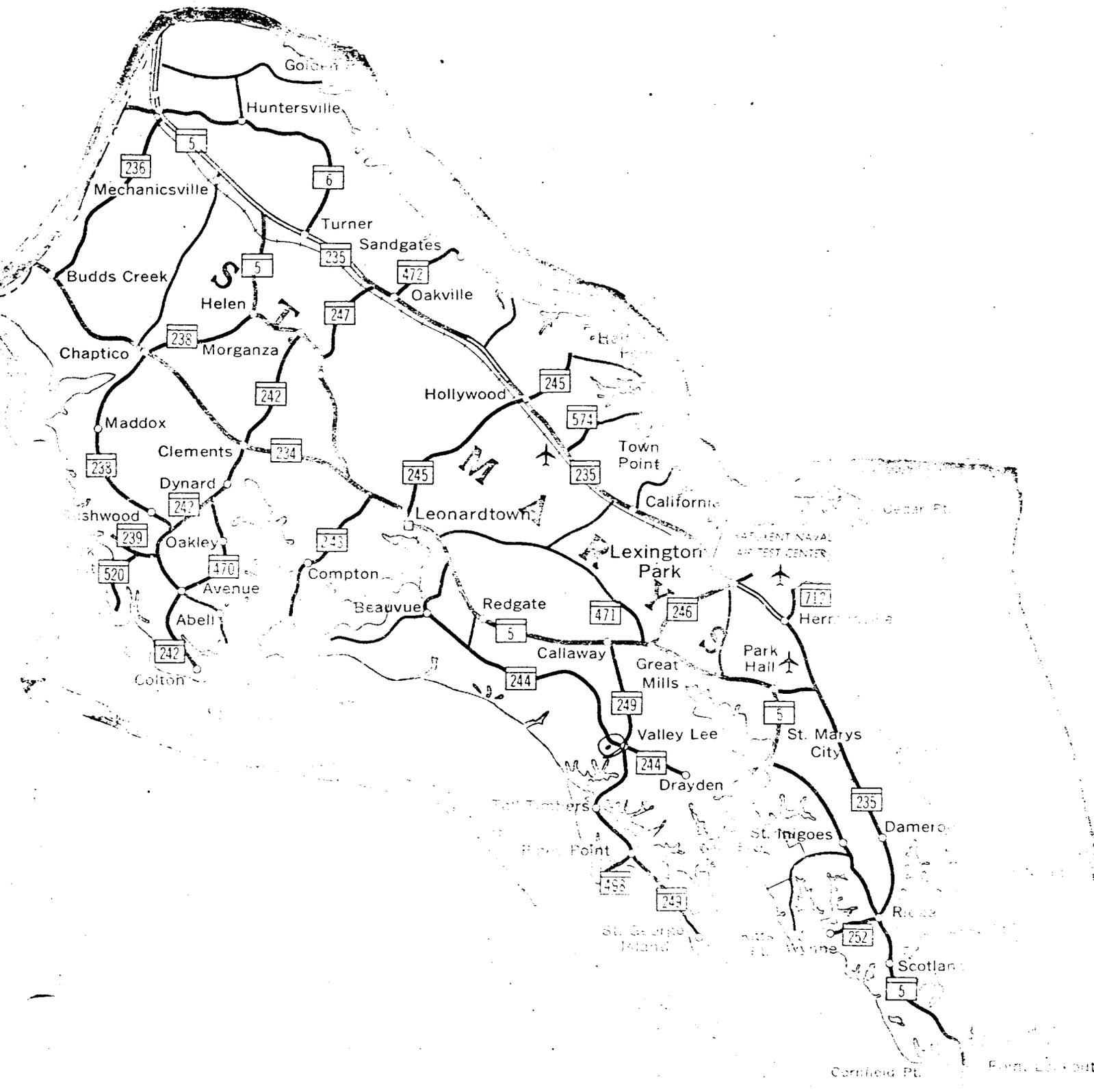
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.
Helen West Ridgely, 1894, The Old Brick Churches of Maryland Skirven, The First Parishes of the Provinces

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Vice Admiral Jelix Johnson
U. S. Navy (Ret.)
Jubilee Farm
Leonardtwn, Maryland
 DATE OF RECORD **March 25, 1968**

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

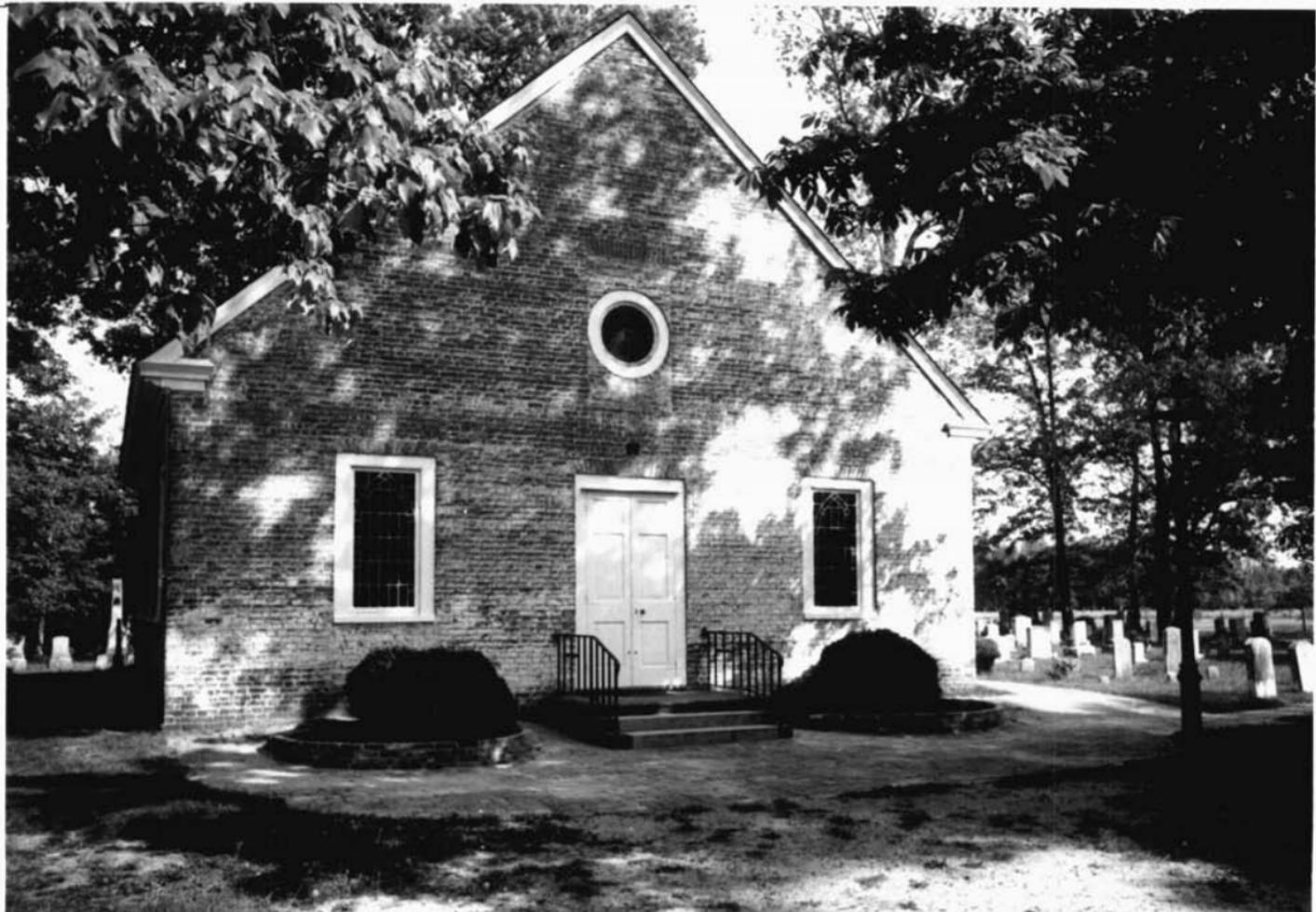
During the renovation, four ancient stones were placed in the newly installed brick floor. Three of these lay in the floor of the original church. The fourth is that of the Reverend Charles Smoot. A description of each of these stones can be seen on a column on the right aisle of the Church.

ST. GEORGE'S P.E. CHURCH SM-12
Location Map





SM-12 St. George's Episcopal Church



Sm-12 St. George's Episcopal Church



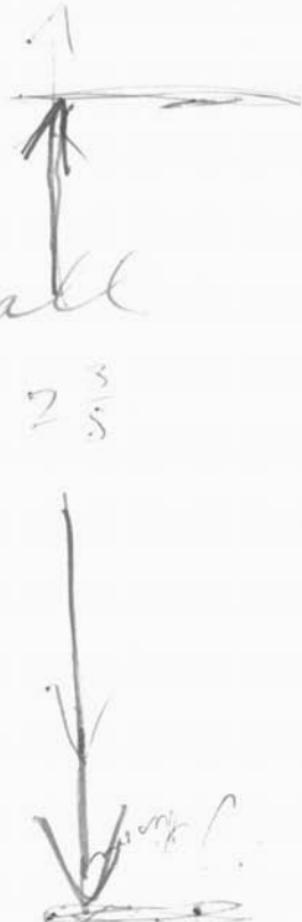
New brick wall 1967
St Georges P.E. Church.
Valley Lee. Md.

Sm-12



St Georges P. E. Church . SM-12
Valley Lee
Md.

Renovated 1958
new pulpit + Prayer Hall
©





St. George's Episcopal Church

SM-12