

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #75A-6 Building Date: 1870's, 1880's
Building Name: Epiphany Episcopal Church
Location: 3111 Ritchie Road, Forestville, Maryland 21114
Private/Religious/Occupied/Excellent/Accessible

Description:

Epiphany Episcopal Church is a large frame gable-roofed structure, ca. 30 by 87 feet, with entrance in the south gable end. This south gable end has decorative bargeboards and three lancet windows. An earlier porch has been enclosed to form a central entry vestibule. At the southeast corner, a three-level square bell-tower has been added to the original simple rectangular building. In the first story of the tower is a single pointed-arch window; the second story is a slightly smaller square and is surmounted by an octagonal belfry with louvered pointed-arch openings and a steep pyramidal roof. The long (east and west) facades of the building have four bays, lighted by stained glass pointed-arch windows. The bays are divided by buttresses. At the rear (north) end of the church is a cross-gabled addition which has enlarged the altar and added a room on each side. There is an interior brick chimney at the east gable end of this addition. The entire building is covered with board-and-batten siding; there is a high brick foundation which encloses basement rooms; the roof is of patterned metal.

Significance:

Epiphany Episcopal Church is a good example of Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture; although there have been several rebuildings and additions, the church structure retains its late-Victorian character. The first Episcopal Chapel in the town of Long Old Fields was established as a mission by Henry Kershaw, Rector of Trinity Church, Upper Marlboro, in 1862. This small wooden chapel became in 1871 the independent parish known as Epiphany. In the 1880's, the chapel was rebuilt on the same site, by then known as Forestville; some materials from the original structure were incorporated in the building of the new church, a simple gable-roofed, board-and-batten structure with buttress supports. There have been two major additions to the Church building in the twentieth century. In 1904 a three-level bell tower was constructed at the southeast corner of the building, and ca. 1940 altar rooms were added at the rear (north) of the church. A restoration program ca. 1970 enlarged the tower and enclosed the entry porch. Although the surroundings of Epiphany Church have greatly changed with the commercialization of the Forestville area, the church itself, buffered by the large graveyard to the north, retains much of its historical character.

Acreage: ca. 1 acre

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Epiphany Episcopal Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3111 Ritchie Road not for publication

city, town Forestville vicinity of congressional district 5

state Md. county Prince George's

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Vestry of Epiphany Episcopal Church

street & number 3111 Ritchie Road telephone no.: (977) 301-735-777

city, town Forestville, state and zip code Md. 20747

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. - liber not found

street & number folio

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P.G. County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records History Division, MNCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state Md.

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Epiphany Episcopal Church is a large frame gable-roofed structure, ca. 30 by 87 feet, with entrance in the south gable end. This south gable end has decorative bargeboards and three lancet windows. An earlier porch has been enclosed to form a central entry vestibule. At the southeast corner, a three-level square bell-tower has been added to the original simple rectangular building. In the first story of the tower is a single pointed-arch window; the second story is a slightly smaller square and is surmounted by an octagonal belfry with louvered pointed-arch openings and a steep pyramidal roof.

The long (east and west) facades of the building have four bays, lighted by stained glass pointed-arch windows. The bays are divided by buttresses. At the rear (north) end of the church is a cross-gabled addition which has enlarged the altar and added a room on each side. There is an interior brick chimney at the east gable end of this addition. The entire building is covered with board-and-batten siding; there is a high brick foundation which encloses basement rooms; the roof is of patterned metal.

On the interior, pilasters between the windows support arched beams which cross below the ridge and extend to meet the exposed rafters. A single purlin crosses the arched beams. Diagonally applied moldings form an X within each of the rectangular panels formed by beams and purlin; at the crossing of each X is an applied wooden medallion.

An old photograph (circa 1878) shows the church in its original form, a simple rectangle without bell tower or altar rooms, with decorative bargeboards and board-and-batten siding.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input 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 checked="" 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 ca. 1870's, 1880's Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Epiphany Episcopal Church is a good example of Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture; although there have been several rebuildings and additions, the church structure retains its late-Victorian character.

The first Episcopal Chapel in the town of Long Old Fields was established as a mission by Henry Kershaw, Rector of Trinity Church, Upper Marlboro, in 1862. This small wooden chapel became in 1871 the independent parish known as Epiphany. In the 1880's, the chapel was rebuilt on the same site, by then known as Forestville; some materials from the original structure were incorporated in the building of the new church, a simple gable-roofed, board-and-batten structure with buttress supports.¹

There have been two major additions to the Church building in the twentieth century. In 1904 a three-level bell tower was constructed at the southeast corner of the building, and ca. 1940 altar rooms were added at the rear (north) of the church. A restoration program ca. 1970 enlarged the tower and enclosed the entry porch.²

The surroundings of the church have greatly changed with the commercialization of the Forestville area. The Victorian rectory has been replaced by a modern dwelling house, and office buildings have been constructed across Ritchie Road; but the large graveyard to the rear of the building creates a quiet and somewhat secluded setting, and, in spite of numerous changes, the church building retains much of its historical character.

Notes

1 "Historical Data of Epiphany Church"; 1878 photograph of Church.

2 "Historical Data"; interview with Vestry member.

1702134508

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Epiphany Protestant Episcopal Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Epiphany Episcopal Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Ritchie Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Forestville

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Prince George's

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

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 Epiphany Episcopal Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
Ritchie Road

CITY OR TOWN: Forestville STATE: _____

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

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: _____
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____

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)			(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

The church is a gothic revival, frame building with an end gabled south facade. The facade has a steep gable with parapets and three lancet windows. The bargeboards have a lancet arch pattern and the parapets are gabled. A porch and tower have been added across the facade. The side walls are four bays, the bays divided by buttresses that rest on high brick foundations. The buttresses are a later addition to what was originally a simple rectangular building. The windows in each bay are gothic arched. The sheathing of the entire building, including the additions, is board and batten. At the north end, a cross gable has been added and the apse enlarged.

On the interior, pilasters along the walls support arched beams that cross below the ridge and extend to support the exposed rafters below the ridge. The rafters meet at a diagonally-set ridge pole. A single purlin is set into the arched beams; within the panels formed by beams and purlin are applied mouldings laid diagonally with a medallion at the crossing. Between nave and apse is a pointed-arched opening.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreege Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC DATE: 13 Sept 74

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

Signature _____



PG#75A-6

Epiphany Church
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
December 1984
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#75A-6

Epiphany Church
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
December 1984
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #75A-6

Epiphany Church

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

December 1984

Southeast 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G.#75A-6

Epiphany Church

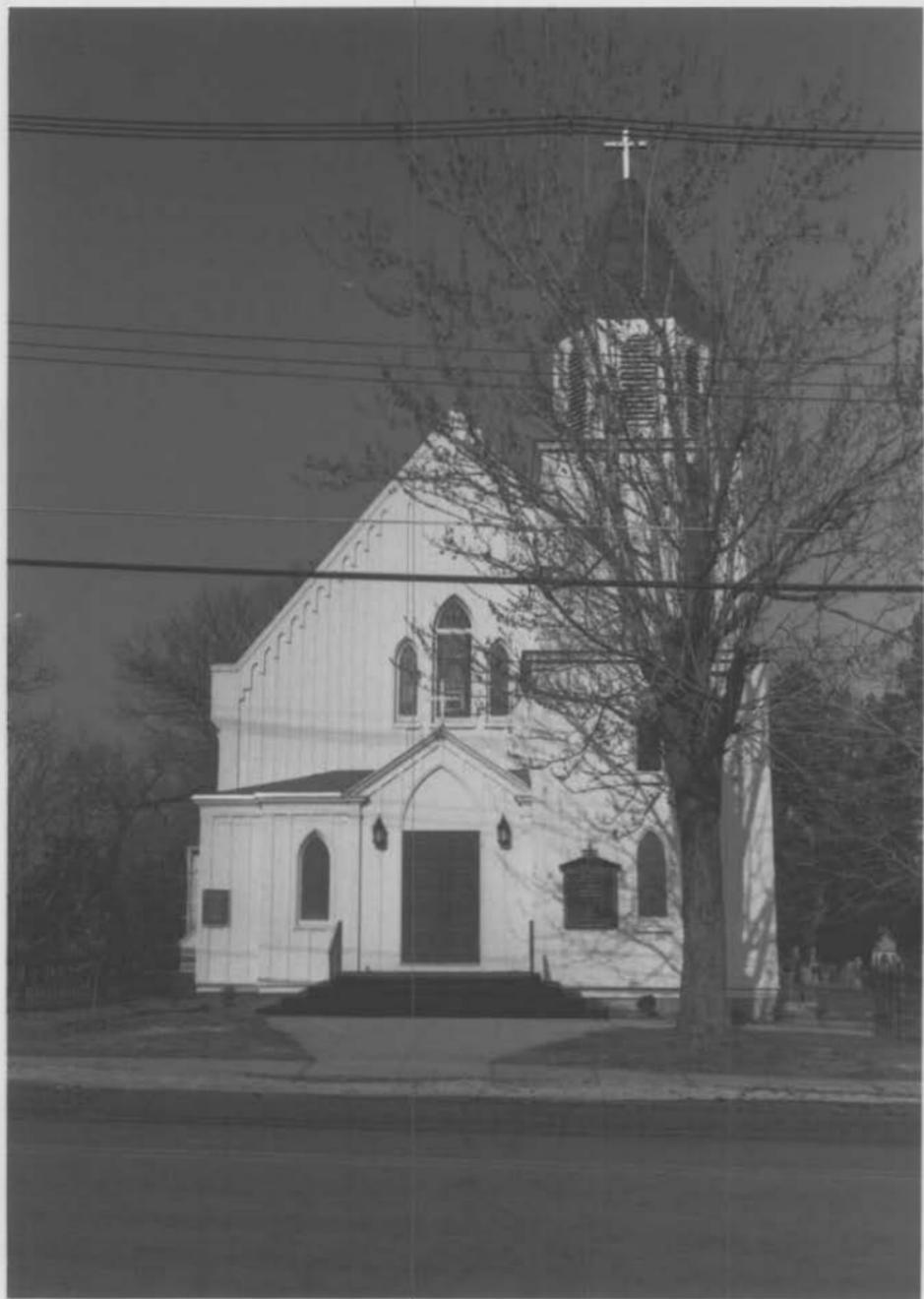
Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

December 1984

Interior

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#75A-6

Epiphany Church

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

December 1984

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



NAME EPIPHANY PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LOCATION RITCHIE-FORESTVILLE RD.; FORESTVILLE, MD.

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 9/13/74

PG: 75A-6

M. DWYER