

VLR-6/2/70, NRHP-9/15/70

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
St. George's Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
St. George's Church

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: NW side of Rt. 178, .3 mi. NE of intersection with Rt. 180.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Pungoteague

STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45      COUNTY: Accomack      CODE: 001

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Vestry, St. George's Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Pungoteague      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Accomack County Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Accomac      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1940       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: District of Columbia      CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Accomack
ENTRY NUMB
DATE
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)			(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

George Carrington Mason described St. George's Church in its original form as "one of the quaintest and most interesting colonial church buildings in Virginia." Its original appearance is known through an 1819 drawing by Reverend James Wallis Eastburn. The drawing, which appeared as a frontispiece for a volume of Eastburn's poems, was described by Mason as follows:

Pongoteague Church was built in the form of a Latin cross and had a semicircular apse, with a conical top, at the east end. Perhaps the most distinctive feature of its design was a hipped gambrel roof, ending in a gable in way of the apse. The two wings forming the transept were of equal length and the chancel and nave slightly longer, and this shape, in connection with that of the rounded apse, brought the building the irreverent nickname of "The Ace of Clubs Church."

Because of heavy damage suffered during the Civil War, the only remaining original portions of St. George's Church are the north and south walls, and the end bays of the east and west walls. During the renovation following the war, the nave and chancel were torn down, and the left-over bricks were used to close up the openings between the wings or transepts; the existing north and south walls are the ends of the transepts. Although the south wall has been disfigured by the closing up of the semicircular arched opening over the door, the original brickwork of the south wall ranks among the most beautiful examples of colonial Flemish bond in the country. The clear blues of the glazed headers contrast strongly with the rich reds of the stretchers and the rubbed corner bricks. The much patched and repaired sections of original brickwork in other parts of the church are also laid in Flemish bond but with random glazing. The brick below the bevelled water table is laid in unglazed Flemish bond.

The church is now covered by a pedimented gable roof with a simple belfry. The pediment, cornice, windows, and all other wood trim date from the post-Civil War renovation and are in a simple Greek Revival style. The dimensions of the present form of the building are 57'-3" north-to-south, and 25'-3" east-to-west. A modern, one-story colonial-style parish hall stands to the east of the church. The burying ground to the southeast of the church contains stones bearing the names of many prominent Eastern Shore families, but none of the stones appear to be colonial.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PERIOD (Check 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)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <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/Philosophy | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. George's Church was known as Pungoteague Church until 1800 when the name was changed to conform with St. George's Parish, created out of the lower portion of Accomack Parish in 1762. The date of erection of the present, though now much altered, church has been the subject of controversy it is thought to have been built in 1738, replacing perhaps two earlier structures on, or near, the site. An Accomack County Court entry for October 3, 1738, states that "An Assignment of all Tobacco &c to be levied for Building of Pungoteague Church From John Snead Gentleman to William Andrews was proved in the Court by the oath of Peter Bodwin a Witness thereto and Admitted to Record."

As originally built, St. George's Church was a most unusual and picturesque Latin cross-shaped structure. It continued in regular service through the eighteenth century, but was abandoned during the War of 1812. Restored to use seven years later, it served its parishioners until the Civil War, when Federal troops desecrated the church. They used the main part of the building for a stable, and raided one of the wings for bricks to build a cook house. Following the war, St. George's stood as a roofless ruin until 1880, when parts of the transepts were renovated to serve as the main body of the church. In 1905, some of the older parishioners made depositions before the United States Court of Claims in a suit to secure damages for the desecration.

Although only a small portion of the original building survives, the largely intact south wall stands as one of the most beautiful and perfect panels of colonial Flemish bond with glazed headers in the country. St. George's is one of only two colonial churches remaining on Virginia's Eastern Shore. As a relic on a site held sacred since the mid-seventeenth century, the church is a significant religious landmark.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Mason, George Carrington, Colonial Churches of Tidewater, Virginia.  
Richmond: 1945.

Rawlings, James Scott, Virginia's Colonial Churches: An Architectural Guide. Richmond: 1963.

Rose, Harold Wickliffe, The Colonial Houses of Worship in America. New York: 1963.

Whitelaw, Ralph T., Virginia's Eastern Shore, Gloucester, Mass., 1968.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		37° 38' 02"	75° 48' 40"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 10 acres

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:  
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: February 25, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman  
Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

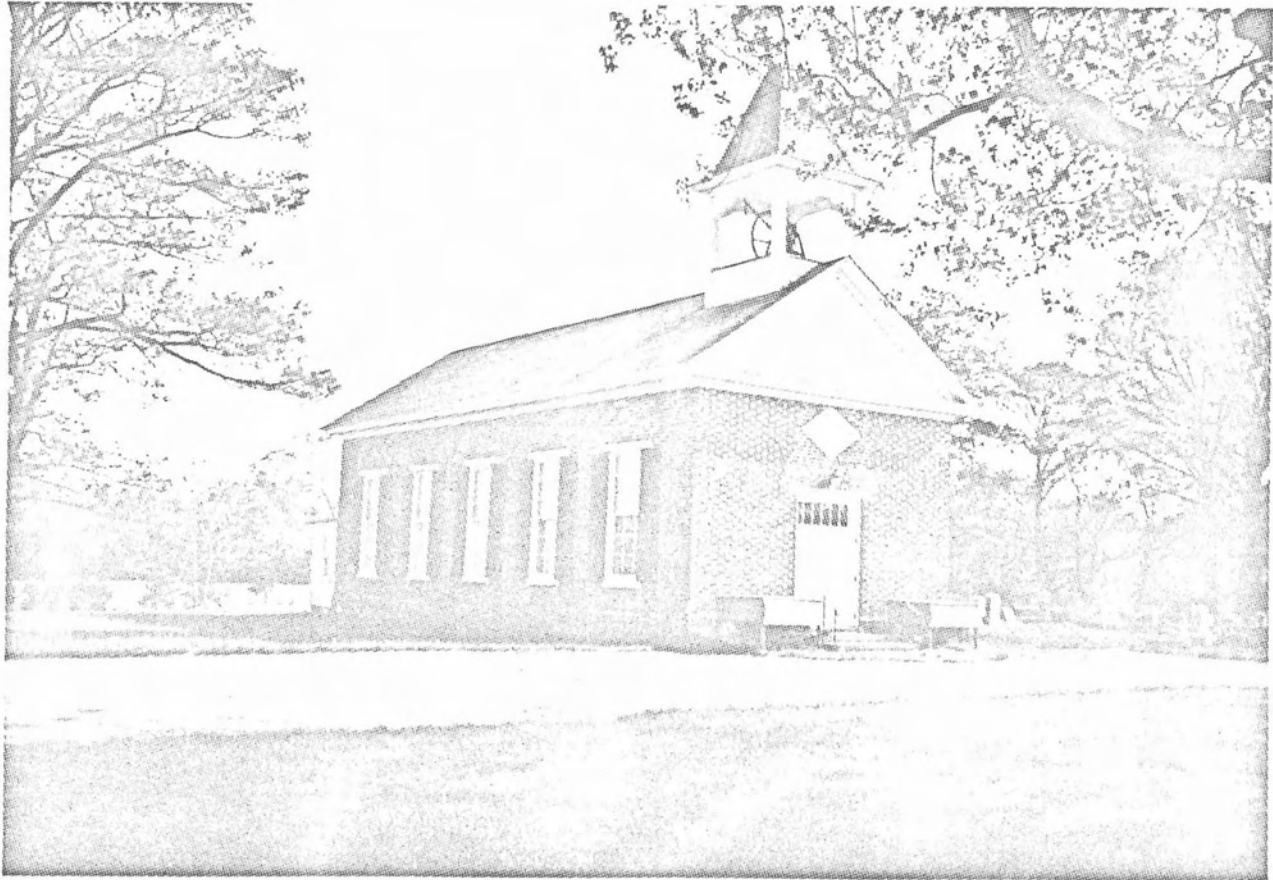
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Accomack	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
1958 . Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. Code: 08

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #01-40  
1968 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia Code: 45



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

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AND/OR HISTORIC: St. George's Church			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: NW side of Rt. 178, .3 mi. NE of intersection with Rt. 180.			
CITY OR TOWN: Pungoteague			
STATE: Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: Accomack	CODE 001
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. map 7.5' quadrangle Pungoteague, Virginia			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1943			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Accomack	
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STATE: Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: Accomack	CODE 001
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Richmond, Virginia			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  View of front from the Southeast.			

SEK

Horse Hole Ct

Harborton

Evans Wharf

180

Taylor

180

