

c. 1794

BA 1745  
The Rectory  
124 St. Thomas Lane  
Owings Mills, Md. 21117  
private

The Rectory of St. Thomas' Church is one of the earliest structures in the district; one of the very few dating to the eighteenth century. However, the masonry walls are the chief element which survived a disastrous fire in 1937.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA 1745

x=886.250

y=577.760

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

MA6I #031745 2204

1 NAME

HISTORIC

RECTORY OF ST. THOMAS CHURCH

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

124 St. Thomas Lane

Second

CITY, TOWN

Owings Mills

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Vestry of St. Thomas Church

Telephone #: 363-1044

STREET & NUMBER

232 St. Thomas Lane

CITY, TOWN

Owings Mills

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21117

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hall of Records

Liber #: WG 11

Folio #: 341

(June 18, 1793)

STREET & NUMBER

College Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

BA-1745

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The RECTORY of St. Thomas' Church originally dates from ca. 1794. Its antiquity is discernable only in its shell for the entire interior, and much of the exterior as well, dates from its reconstruction following a fire in 1937.

The principal facade is the south but it is seldom seen due to the current vehicular access to the property from the north-east. The main section of the house is of brick, two storeys in height, three bays in length. A one-storey porch extends across the south facade. The south facade is laid in Flemish bond, a detail all but obscured by the many layers of whitewash and paint; some portions are of common bond, undoubtedly reconstructed after the fire. A ledge water table above the first floor line and a belt course at the second are original embellishments marking a certain sophistication. There are no arches above the masonry openings. The openings of the first storey are spaced further apart than those of the second. The door is in the east bay. First storey windows are 12/8, the second storey 8/8 and all have wide frames with louvred blinds hung on strap hinges supported by driven pintels. The tall frieze and small cornice are post-fire replacements. A single chimney is flush with the west gable.

A detached log kitchen to the west was demolished ca. 1852-1853.

The construction of the existing stone wing was recorded in 1799 to link the dwelling to the kitchen. It is one and one-half storeys in height, two bays in length and the brick section serves as its east wall. An exterior chimney of brick rises above its west gable, also of brick above the eave line. The easterly bay of its south front was a door; it is now a 6/6 window, narrower and lower than the 6/6 window which occupies an original window opening in the west bay. Two windows of the larger size are in the north facade. All windows have narrow replacement frames and louvred blinds. A single dormer with three-light casements is in the upper storey on each slope.

A frame wing extends east from the original brick section, three bays in length, its two-storey height only slightly less than that of the original section. It has a modern brick east gable end with a flush chimney, a twentieth century restatement of that early tidewater Maryland form. Extending north behind the frame wing is

another frame section of equal height and length, its east wall recessed one bay west of the brick gable end, its westerly roof sweeping down to the second floor level. The post-fire reconstructions have masked all vestiges of the age of the east and north wings but they incorporate portions of the addition of 1852-1853, documented in the parish records and recorded by published photographs.<sup>1</sup> In that photograph the east wing extends to the north with an unbroken east facade beneath a hipped roof.

A hall extends through the east bay of the brick section and a single large room is to the west. The staircase is adjacent in the north wing. A single large room is in the east wing and another is in the north wing. A modern kitchen is in the stone west wing. All interior details and finishes are modern except some early flooring above the kitchen.

A shallow inaccessible crawl space is beneath the stone west wing. Log joists support the first floor of the brick section and the original relieved floorboards remain in place above them, concealed by later flooring above. Straight sawn joists are beneath the east wing and log joists are beneath the north wing. All cellar walls are rubble stone. No other structural details are visible to indicate the extent of original construction following the fire of 1937.

1 Dawn F. Thomas, GREEN SPRING VALLEY, published by the Maryland Historical Society, 1978, page 154.

**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 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 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES 1793 rebuilt 1937 BUILDER/ARCHITECT 1937 - Taylor and Fisher  
 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Smith and May

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The RECTORY of St. Thomas' Church is one of the earliest structures in the district, one of the very few dating to the eighteenth century and well documented in parish records. A disastrous fire in 1937 required almost total reconstruction, the masonry walls being the chief surviving element.

On June 3, 1713 Reverend Thomas Fitch Oliver was elected Rector of St. Thomas Church. The vestry agreed "that a house be provided in the spring. . . and to give him as a salary for one year from this day the one hundred pounds certain." On August 14 the same year there was an agreement that four acres of land be bought from Samuel Owings "to build the parsonage in consideration of five shillings current money". However, they could not finish the church for a year or more and in addition reduced his salary to \$266 per year. By the time that John Coleman was elected as Rector, March 25, 1794, we have proof that the Rectory was in existence as he was promised "use of the parsonage and property belonging to the Church". Furthermore Samuel Owings sold the vestry "about 30 acres of land at 7 lbs/10 shillings, said land being thought a great advantage to our parsonage." This land provided the "glebe" which Mr. Coleman had been promised.

At their August 5, 1799, meeting the vestry voted "to finish the room between the parsonage house and the kitchen. To be done by Mr. Samuel E. Owings". Members of the parish undertook the various tasks. Samuel Owings and Charles Walker hauled the stone; Dr. Thomas Cradock paid for the mason; Samuel Owings III procured the shingles; John Bond and Joseph Jones, the nails; Nathan Chapman, the plasterer and Mr. Hunt the windows and doors.

Many rectors enjoyed the parsonage thereafter. In 1852 immediately after the arrival of William F. Leebwood extensive repairs to the parsonage were undertaken. The old log cabin was demolished and the new kitchen transposed to the west room of the house. An addition was made to the east end, consisting of a parlor below and a chamber above, with a portico the whole width in front.

The Rectory was badly damaged by fire on August 17, 1937. Only the quick action of the caretaker and neighbors saved Mr. Jensen's 3,000 volume library and many antiques. On September 12, 1937, the vestry appointed Este Fisher of Taylor and Fisher and Thomas Smith of Smith and May, as well as C. Walter Tovell, builder, to proceed with plans for the rebuilding of the rectory. They also engaged "the Deannery" for the rector's temporary residence. On October 28th that same year the plans were presented to the vestry at the estimated cost of \$16,000. At the June 8th, 1938, vestry meeting, it was reported that Dr. Jensen had taken the vestry through the "entire downstairs of the New Rectory. . (and that) they were much impressed and pleased."

The Rectory is presently occupied by Reverend William T. Baxter, Jr., his wife Susan and their two young children, Parker and Lucy.

Residents of the Rectory, St. Thomas' Church

1793-1797	Thomas Fitch Oliver died	To supplement his income, he maintained a boarding school.
1799-1804	John Coleman resigned	Served in the Revolution. Moved to a farm in Harford County after resignation.
1805-1810	John Armstrong resigned	
1812-1814	John Chandler resigned	
1818-1819	Joseph Jackson discharged (10 communicants)	Was intimate friend of Bishop Kemp, 2nd Bishop of Md.
1820-1849	Charles C. Austin died	Maintained a school to supplement income.
1849-1850	Jacob B. Morss resigned	
1850-1852	John J. Nicholson resigned (28 communicants)	
1852-1883	William F. Lockwood died	Buried at St. Thomas'
1883-1888	W. Strother Jones resigned	Grandson of Chief Justice Marshall
1888-1923	Hobart Smith died	Son of Senator from N.Y. Edited <u>The Garrison Church</u> by Allen. Buried at St. Thomas'
1923-1956	Philip Jensen died	Member of Black Watch Regiment of Canada. Buried at St. Thomas'.
1956-1966	Henry Rightor resigned	Presently on faculty of Virginia Theological Seminary.
1966-1978	George Sinkinson resigned	
1979-	William F. Baxter	

Bicentennial Tour of St. Thomas' Church, Garrison Forest - 1776-1976.  
pamphlet in Church Library.

Dawn F. Thomas and Robert W. Barnes, The Green Spring Valley: Its  
History and Heritage (Baltimore, Maryland Historical Society, 1978).  
pp. 150-159.

Footnotes, The Rectory St. Thomas

Minutes of the Vestry of St. Thomas' Church, Garrison.

The Garrison Church, Allen. p. 53, BA 6 April 1813.

Minutes of the Vestry of St. Thomas'.

Ibid.

Minutes of the Vestry of St. Thomas'.

The Garrison Church, Allen. p. 61-62.

Ibid. p. 93-94.

Dawn F. Thomas, The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage  
(Baltimore, Maryland Historical Society, 1978). p. 156.

Minutes of the Vestry of St. Thomas'.

Ibid.

Ibid.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Pamphlet 1776-1976, Bicentennial Tour of St. Thomas Church, Garrison Forest (in Church Library).  
Minutes of the Vestry, St. Thomas Church. In Church Library.  
Dawn F. Thomas and Thomas W. Barnes, The Green Spring Valley (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Soc., 1978).  
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 acres

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		DATE	
<u>James T. Wollon, Jr. A.I.A., Dawn F. Thomas, Joan E. Buck, Research</u>		<u>Historians</u>	
ORGANIZATION		TELEPHONE	
<u>Valleys Planning Council</u>		<u>828-7807</u>	
STREET & NUMBER		STATE	
<u>212 Washington Avenue</u>		<u>Maryland</u>	
CITY OR TOWN			
<u>Towson</u>			

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





BA 1745

The Rectory

St. Thomas'

GSVHD

St. Thomas'

Lane

JWT

8-22-79

Md.Hist.Tr.

from south