

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 20747

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.

Acreege: ca. 1 acre

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

# 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 publicationcity, town Forestville  vicinity of congressional district 5state 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 &amp; number 3111 Ritchie Road telephone no.: (9,97) 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 &amp; 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

Survey No. P.G. #75A-6

## Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

## Check one

unaltered  
 altered

## Check one

original site  
 moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

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.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Vestry minutes, Epiphany parish M-902 (MHR)

"Historical Data of Epiphany Church"

Interview with Vestry Member

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property ca. 1 acre

Quadrangle name Anacostia quadrangle, Section C

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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## Verbal boundary description and justification

## List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl/Rod McDonell

organization Historic Preservation Commission date January 1985

street & number County Planning, MNCPPC telephone 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

1702134508

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: Epiphany Protestant Episcopal Church				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Epiphany Episcopal Church				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: Ritchie Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Forestville				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Prince George's	
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<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		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC 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	_____	_____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: Vestry of Epiphany Episcopal Church				
STREET AND NUMBER: Ritchie Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Forestville			STATE:	
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
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. #):				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> 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)
	<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>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (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) 1867

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Historic</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Art</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Commerce</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Communications</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Education</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Engineering</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Industry</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Invention</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Literature</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Military</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Music</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Political</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Theater</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|--|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Area: [Blank]

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:

Acreage Justification:

[Blank area for 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

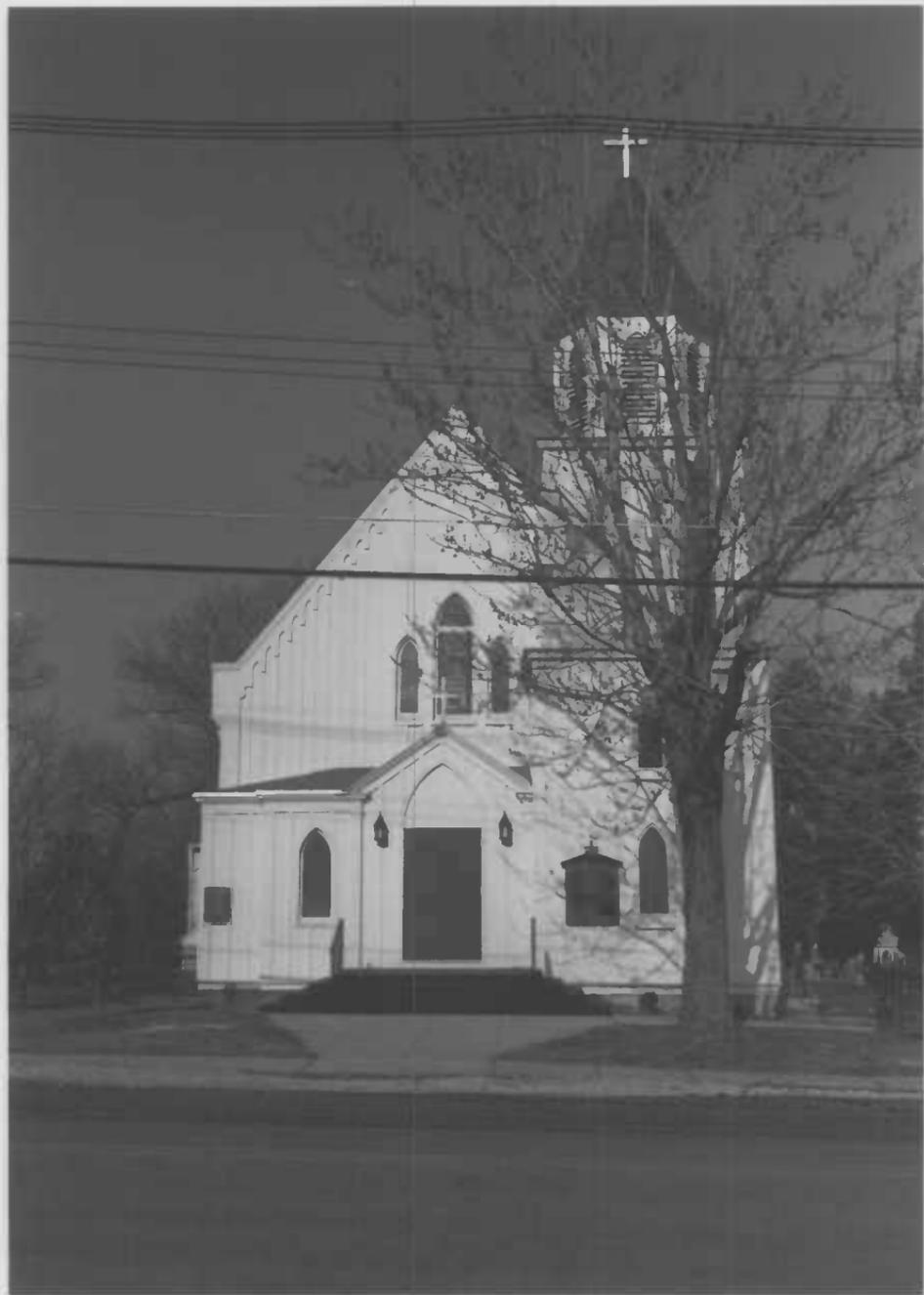
Prince George's County, MD

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. Dewyer