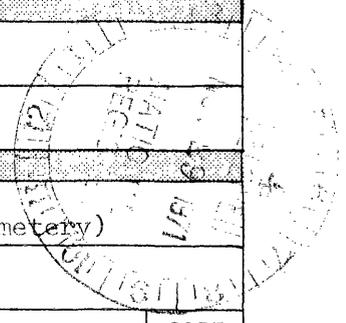


PH0022055

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
11	JAN 10 1970



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Rock Creek Parish)

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Rock Creek Church

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Rock Creek Church Road and Webster Street, N.W. (Rock Creek Cemetery)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
District of Columbia	11	District of Columbia	001

**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"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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)

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Rector and Vestry of Rock Creek Parish

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Rock Creek Road & Webster Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:	CODE
District of Columbia	11

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Sixth and D Streets, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:	CODE
District of Columbia	11

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Places Recommended by the Joint Committee on Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
National Capital Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:	CODE
District of Columbia	11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Rock Creek Church) is located in Rock Creek Cemetery at Rock Creek Church Road and Webster Street, N.W. Although the walls of the present church date from 1775, the church has undergone a number of changes throughout its history. The first church on the site was a frame structure erected in 1719. This church was replaced with a brick structure in 1775. Until 1868, when the north wall was torn down and the church re-modeled, the church was rectangular in shape with two large doors on the west side, and a gallery on the interior (which was later removed). Reconstruction drawings of the west facade prior to 1868 show a facade that is three bays wide with three round-headed windows on the second floor (probably to light the gallery) and a small square window in the center of the first story, flanked on each side by a rectangular, two-leaf door with a rectangular fan light.

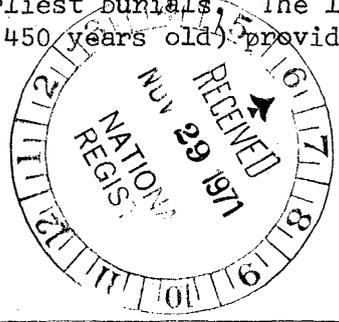
The present church, which was rebuilt after it was damaged by fire in 1921, is Georgian in character, with a hipped roof and Flemish bond red brick walls. It now has a recessed chancel, organ and vestry room. The church measures 60 feet at its widest point and is 79 feet deep; the nave is 60 feet wide and 40 feet deep. The tower is 57' 8" high.

The main entrance to the church is through the square brick tower which projects 13 feet from the center of the main or south facade. The round-arched two-leaf door is recessed and painted white. On each side of the tower is a very slender, rectangular round-arched window of stained glass. Near the top of the tower, on each side, is a round, nine-light bulls' eye window. The octagonal belfry is of wood with a molded cornice. Its concave sloping roof is capped by a cross. The belfry is formed by an arcade of round-arched windows with fan lights and louvers connected at each corner by a column with a molded capital.

The main facade contains four windows plus the central tower. The same slender, rectangular round-arched windows which appear in the tower are found in the four windows of the main facade and the three windows on either side of the nave. At the rear or north side of the building, the chancel projects with one round-headed window placed on each side.

The interior of the nave has a wide, central aisle leading to the recessed chancel which is set behind a large arched opening. The alter is at the rear of the chancel. On either side are smaller arched openings; to the west the opening contains the organ pipes, and to the east, the baptismal font and the door to the rectory. Above each side arch is a round blind bull's eye. The interior is painted white and contains wainscoting around the sides of the nave.

St. Paul's is located in Rock Creek Cemetery, the oldest burial ground in the District of Columbia, established in 1719. The grounds nearest the church were used for the earliest burials. The landscaping and the old trees (some estimated to be 450 years old) provide a handsome setting for this Georgian-style church.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**2. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1775; 1868; 1921

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" 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

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated St. Paul's Church a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. The history of the church can be traced back to the early 18th century when services were first held on the site in 1712; the first church was built in 1719. St. Paul's originally served as the parish of Prince George's Parish which at that time included the area between the Potomac and the Patuxent Rivers, the northeast fork of the Eastern Branch and from there extended westward indefinitely. As the earliest church in the District of Columbia, St. Paul's has contributed significantly to the religious and educational life of the District. The present edifice, reconstructed after the fire of 1921, has the original walls of the late 18th century church and preserves the colonial feeling of the original.

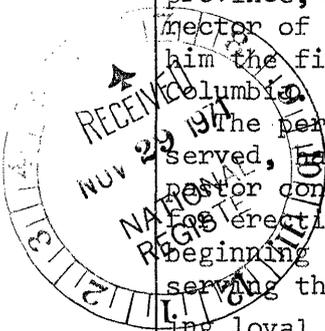
Before the first frame chapel was built in 1719, Reverend John Fraiser, rector of St. John's Parish, Maryland, held services on the site under the old "Glebe Oak" which still stands beside the church. On September 18, 1719, Rev. Fraiser called a meeting of the inhabitants of the Eastern Branch and Rock Creek hundreds for the purpose of selecting a site for the church and discussing methods of financing. Forty-five pounds sterling and 4,350 pounds of tobacco were contributed at the meeting. The location of the chapel was determined by John Bradford's contribution of 100 acres of land from his manor "Generosity" for a glebe and chapel. Bradford also subscribed 1,000 pounds of tobacco and the timber necessary for construction of the structure. Although he died before formally deeding the acreage to the church, it was later done by his son and widow on August 27, 1730. Since that time the property has remained in the possession of the church.

By 1726 St. Paul's was large enough to be designated the parish church of Prince George's County, Maryland, and was one of the original thirty parishes of the province of Maryland. Lord Baltimore, as proprietary of the province, recommended the induction of Reverend George Murdock as first rector of the new parish. A rectory of the glebe was built for him, making him the first minister to live within the present limits of the District of Columbia.

The period from 1762 to 1776, during which Reverend Alexander Williamson served, has been referred to as the parish's "Golden Age." In 1764 the rector convinced vestryman John Claggett to donate land within the parish for the erection of a public school. That school is claimed to have been the beginning of the public school system in the District of Columbia. After serving the parish for 14 years, Rev. Williamson lost his pulpit by remaining loyal to the king.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Pamphlets published by St. Paul's Church including: St. Paul's Episcopal Church--Rock Creek Parish, 1950.  
 "St. Paul's Church, Rock Creek Parish," The Church Militant, 1898.  
 Browne. "Rise of Protestant Episcopal Church." Columbia Historical Society Records, vol. 9, pp. 70-85.  
 Hood, Henry. "Church of Century Greet a New Easter," Washington Post, April 12, 1936.  
 Information from writer historian Sarah Marusin.

**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	° ' "	° ' "		38° 56' 48"	77° 00' 45"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre in an 86 acre cemetery

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Suzanne Ganschinetz, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission DATE: 27 May 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>[Signature]</u></p> <p>Title <u>Deputy-Mayor Commissioner</u></p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u>                  Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u>                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>FEB 8 1972</u></p>
---	---

12/325500/4318600  
 DTM Ref  
 1-7-78  
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance - St. Paul's Episcopal Church

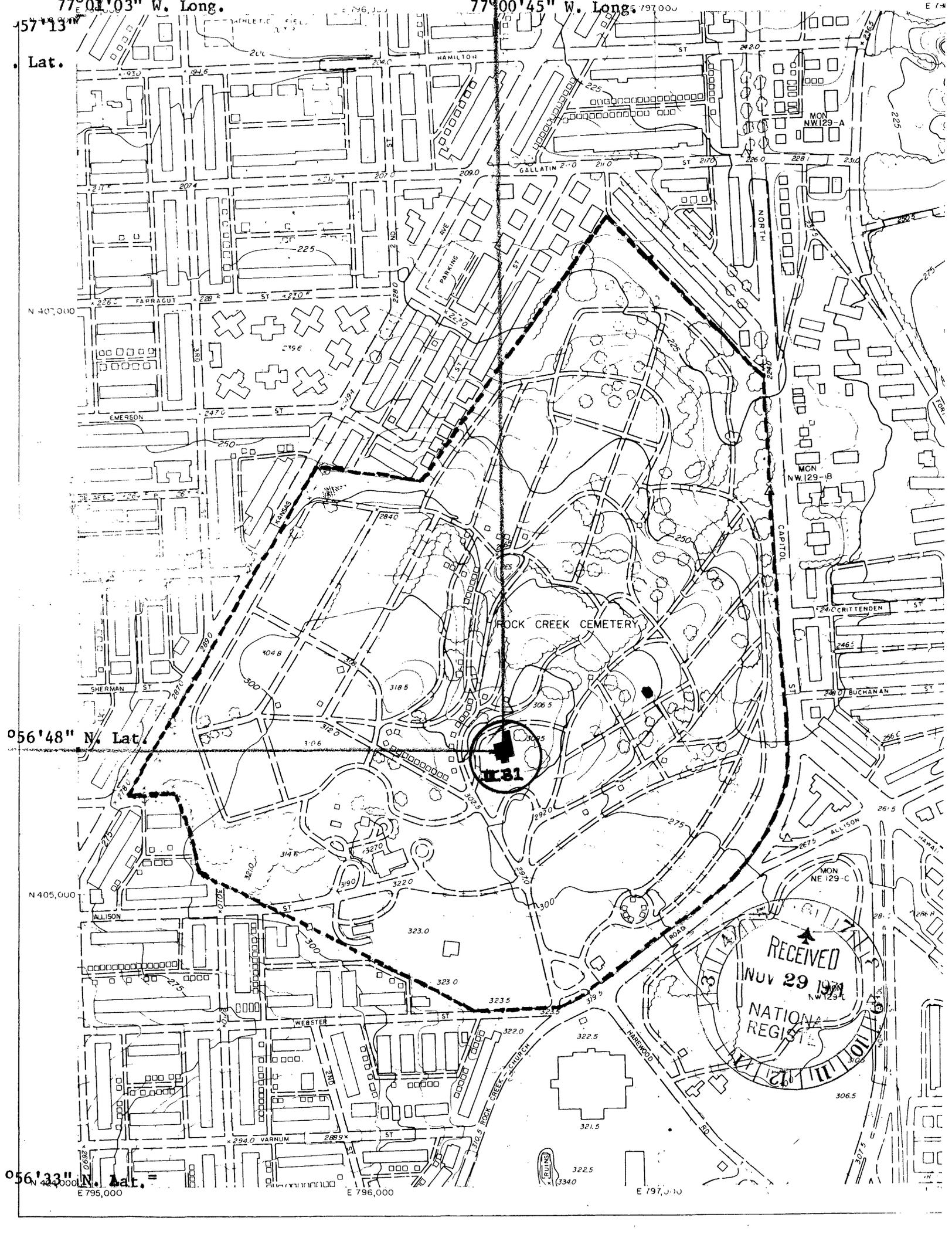
The next rector was Rev. Thomas Reed from the Rockville area. As a result of the almost abandoned condition of the parish church, he and the lay delegates from the Rockville Chapel were received into the convention of Maryland in 1784 as representing Prince George's Parish. The records and name of St. Paul's were taken into the possession of the chapel, and sale of the church and glebe was authorized. Due to the intervention of Francis Scott Key, then a member of St. John's in Georgetown, that idea was abandoned and the glebe rescued.

With the coming of Dr. James Albert Buck in 1852 the parish began an era of success and importance in the Diocese. In 1856, the Diocesan Convention re-defined the boundaries of Rock Creek Parish and gave it its present name, leaving the old name of Prince George's Parish to the Rockville church. Dr. Buck worked especially hard to rehabilitate the glebe and church. The grounds near the church had always been used for burials, but it was Dr. Buck who enclosed an acre of the land for use as a public cemetery. Among the contributors who helped finance a complete remodelling of the church in 1868 were President James Buchanan, Secretary of War Edward M. Stanton, and Governor Alexander Shepherd.

Fire struck St. Paul's in the spring of 1921, completely destroying the interior as well as the stained glass windows. Fortunately the pre-revolutionary walls which were made of bricks imported from England were retained in the reconstruction of the church. The restoration architect was Delos Smith and the present church dates from his reconstruction.

Rock Creek Cemetery, where the church is located, was established in 1719. It is estimated that the eighty-six acre cemetery now contains well over 75,000 graves. Many people of importance in our nation's history are interred in Rock Creek Cemetery.





77° 01' 03" W. Long. 77° 00' 45" W. Long. 79° 00'

57' 13" Lat.

N 407,000

056' 48" N. Lat.

N 405,000

056' 33" N. Lat. N 404,000 E 795,000

E 796,000

E 797,000

RECEIVED  
NOV 29 1971  
NATIONAL REGISTER

131

ROCK CREEK CEMETERY

MON NW 129-A

MON NW 129-B

MON NE 129-C

