

VLR-10/17/72 NRHP-3/20/73

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: Gloucester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Ware Parish Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Southeast side of Rt. 14, 1 mile Northeast of intersection with Rt. 17.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Gloucester Vicinity (Thomas N. Downing, First District Congressman)

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Gloucester	CODE 073
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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	<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"/> 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) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
(The Reverend Reginald Eastman) The Vestry

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Ware Parish Church

CITY OR TOWN: Gloucester	STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Gloucester County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Gloucester	STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934; 1937  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D.C.	CODE 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
COUNTY: Gloucester  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
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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

Ware Parish Church, surrounded by a colonial brick wall and a large wooded churchyard, stands framed by the woods on the south side of Routes 14 and 3, about one and one-half miles east of Gloucester Court House. This rectangular brick building measures 80'9" x 40'9". The covering of the steeply pitched gable roof and the modillion cornice with returns are modern, although the roof trusses are believed to be old. On both gables the apex has been replaced. The walls, exhibiting variations in the color of the brick, are laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers both above and below the ovolo water table. These walls are unusually thick, measuring over three feet. Rubbed brick suggest quions at the four corners, and are used to mark all the jambs and arches. Glazed queen closers are employed at all the corners of the building and irregularly at the openings of doors and windows. There are two double guillotine windows in the east end, five windows on each side, and one circular window over the western doorway; all the large windows have rounded arches. The sashes of sixteen lights each with six lights in each fan are probably colonial. Ware is the only rectangular colonial church to retain its three original entrances. The west doorway has a primitive archivolt consisting of a cyma recta, fascia, and a cyma reversa over a rounded arch of voussoirs, alternating a whole brick over a half, and a half over a whole, and a pair of pilasters resting on pedestals. The north and south doorways both have triangular pediments originally consisting of a raked cornice of cyma recta (now missing), cyma reversa (now missing on the north), fascia and cyma reversa, and a horizontal cornice of a missing upper course, fascias and a cyma reversa over a flat arch, pilasters and pedestals.

The interior of the building retains few of its colonial members. The altar is in the raised chancel in front of a reredos with a pediment and dentil cornice supported by simple pilasters on the east wall and the pulpit is placed near the south door. There is a gallery in the west over a vestibule which is closed off from the sanctuary by a panelled partition. The columnar supports of the gallery are thought to be colonial, as is the panelling surrounding the upper part of the stairway in the west gallery. There is a door with a broken pediment and dentil work on both the raked and the horizontal cornice under the gallery. A wide cornice with dentils surrounding the interior is a replacement. The window sills are splayed. The north, east and south walls and the ceiling are plastered.

G. H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. 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) **1715**

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

Ware Parish Church remains important not only as one of the earliest churches in the state, but as an excellent example of the rectilinear form of the colonial Virginia church. The Church's Flemish bond brickwork with glazing is particularly fine, and survives in a remarkable state of preservation. It also is the only colonial rectangular church to retain its original three entrances in unaltered form; and at Ware, these entrances are of especial interest as they exhibit very early examples of the pedimented brick doorways so typical of colonial Virginia's ecclesiastical architecture.

Ware Parish was formed in 1657, only six years after the formation of Gloucester County. Ware and its sister Parish of Abingdon have maintained a close relationship, often sharing a common vestry and rector and their history is closely linked. The first Ware Church stood on the opposite side of the river, near the road leading to Ware Neck. It was probably in existence by 1660; the site is still known as Church Field. The land for the present church was given by Mordecai Cooke II. It was long thought that Ware Parish Church was built in 1693, but more recently the date 1715 has been accepted as a more accurate date based upon the architectural evidence. It certainly was built during the rectorship (1679-1723) of James Clack, who lies buried just outside the chancel wall.

During the Revolution, American infantry camped at the church. After the Disestablishment, the church was abandoned by the Episcopalians, and was used by the Methodists from time to time. The Church was repaired for use in 1827, and was modernized in 1854. More repairs were required after Federal Troops camped in the yard during the War Between the States; these did not take place until 1878.

The Parish owns two silver patens and two chalices, inherited from Petsworth Parish, dormant since 1797, and made in London in 1675-76, possibly by John Sutton.

The first rector of Ware Parish was Alexander Murray, a Scottish clergyman who supported Charles II and escaped from the Battle of Worcester. He was present in Virginia when Ware Parish was formed in 1657 and became the rector. It was Murray, with his Royalist background, who was nominated to be the Bishop of Virginia with jurisd-

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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

Rawlings, James Scott, Virginia's Colonial Churches. Richmond: Garrett  
and Massie, 1963.

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

**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
NW	37°	25'	28"	76°	30'	34"				
NE	37°	25'	28"	76°	30'	19"				
SE	37°	25'	15"	76°	30'	19"				
SW	37°	25'	15"	76°	30'	34"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **10 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff**

ORGANIZATION: **Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission** DATE: **September, 1972**

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

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
**J. R. Fishburne, Director**  
Title **Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission**  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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	
Gloucester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

*(Number all entries)*

**6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory**

1959 Federal

Library of Congress

Washington, D. C.

Code: 11

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

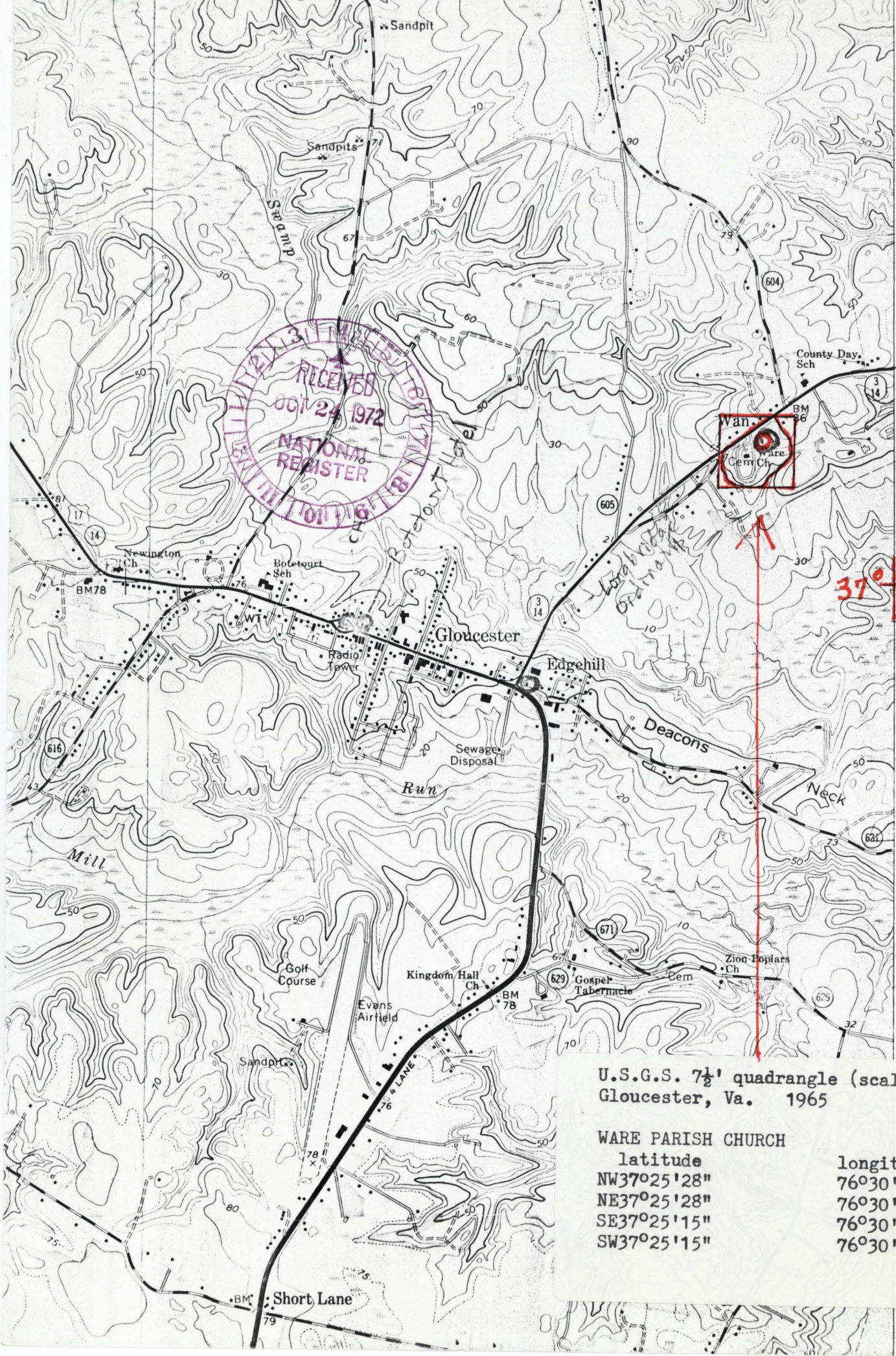
STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Gloucester	
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(Number all entries)

#8 Significance

diction over all of the colonies. Murray apparently died before he could be appointed, and the colonies never obtained their own Bishop.

G. H.



RECEIVED  
 001 24 1972  
 NATIONAL REGISTER  
 101 101 16 18 11

(WARE NECK)  
 FORT NONSENSE 4.8 MI.  
 MATHEWS (VIA VA. 14) 1.4 MI.

Ware Ch.

76°30'

37°25'

Court House  
 Botetourt Ho  
 Longbridge

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
 Gloucester, Va. 1965

WARE PARISH CHURCH

latitude	longitude
NW37°25'28"	76°30'34"
NE37°25'28"	76°30'19"
SE37°25'15"	76°30'19"
SW37°25'15"	76°30'34"

Short Lane