



St. Marg's Episcopal
 Church
 Warwick Twp.
 Chester Co. PA
 Elverson, PA quad
 Zone 18

N
 4446250 E
 433475

10'
 BUCKTOWN 4.9 MI.
 PHOENIXVILLE 7.3 MI.

7.5 MI. TO INTERCHANGE 23
 PHILADELPHIA (CITY HALL) 39 MI.
 INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1986
 435000m E
 LUDWIGS CORNER 3.8 MI.
 14 MI. TO I I S 30

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Mary's Episcopal Church
other names/site number Old St. Mary's Church

2. Location

street & number Warwick Road N/A not for publication
city, town Warwick Township, Elverson, N/A vicinity
state Pennsylvania code _____ county Chester code _____ zip code 19520

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	_____ objects
		<u>3</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Dr. Brent Glass, Executive Director 12/6/95
Signature of certifying official Date
PA Historical and Museum Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY/Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/sandstone

walls STUCCO

roof SLATE

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Old St. Mary's Protestant Episcopal Church is located in the center of Warwick Village in Warwick Township, northern Chester County, a village of fifteen early to mid-19th century houses. The church is a one-story ecclesiastical hall in rural Gothic Revival style. It was rebuilt in 1843 to its present appearance in native fieldstone, and covered over with limebased stucco (Dielbatus). Standing 30' from the village thoroughfare, the church is surrounded on three sides by its cemetery (contributing site) with burials going back to 1806, the year of inception of the first congregation on this site. A four foot stone wall (contributing structure) borders the church lot on the south and east sides, broken by hand wrought iron gates in front of the church. Although once there were affiliated carriage sheds, they fell into disrepair and were removed in the mid 20th century. The building is rectangular and measures 50' across the front and back and 70' along each side. The 1.3 acre lot is completely taken up by burials except where the church stands. -

The main entrance is in the south gable end and includes two sets of narrow, five-paneled doors, each set within a Gothic arch. A many-paned transom forms the Gothic arches above the doors. The transoms and doors are recessed within paneled reveals, and the transoms are set within a wooden, rectangular, paneled label flush with the walls. Between the doors is a large multi-paned, clear-glass Gothic window that rises slightly higher than the doors and their labels. A lunette is centered in the gable at the attic level, a marble datestone above reads: "Founded in 1806, Rebuilt 1843". The broadly gabled slate roof ends in a closed cornice with partial returns supported by wooden brackets. Between the brackets, each soffit board is pierced with a repeated pattern of a cross flanked by scrolls. An open-sided, square, wooden belfry with bell and hip roof is situated on the south end of the gable. A wooden cross surmounts the belfry roof. The belfry was added in 1909.

The east and west side walls are identical, each with four many-paned, clear-glass Gothic windows. Made in three parts, each window holds two 18-paned sash surmounted by a Gothic sash containing eight full and eight partial lites. Only the lowest 18-paned sash is moveable. Much of the glass is early, imperfect, wavy glass. The north, or rear, wall holds two more of these windows and a lunette at the gable.

Centered on the north wall is a five-sided apse, single story, with two 6/6 double hung sash windows. A small door on the west side of the apse accesses the sacristy within. Marks on the east wall of the apse indicate where, until recently, a frame lean-to tool shed/coal bin was attached. A modern, narrow, external furnace chimney in concrete block is also evident on the north wall which serviced first a pipeless heater and now an oil-fired furnace installed in the last decade. Except for the belfry, the exterior appearance of the church is just as it was rebuilt in 1843.

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The stone wall of the cemetery on the south and east sides of the church lot is stucco over fieldstone with flat two and a half inch thick concrete slabs on top to shed rain water. It is unknown when the wall was built, but it is supposed to have been shortly after 1843. The beautifully wrought iron entrance gates are of the same period. The north and west sides of the cemetery are not enclosed and burials are found very near to the lines of the 1.3 acre lot. Memorial stones of various sizes, shapes and time periods mark the burials, mostly upright, but a number that are large marble slabs covering an entire grave. Many are readable; many are not. There are some memorial stones almost against the east church wall dated in the 1770s. These are thought to have been reinterments from earlier burials either on this plot or in the 7th Day Baptist Cemetery east of Warwick Village which was the earliest hallowed plot in the township.

Originally (1843), the interior of St. Mary's was one room with a canted floor slanting toward a simple table altar at the north end and a balcony at the south end. There were box pews on the sides and a double set of pews down the center with doors on the aisle sides. Seating in the church was rearranged in the 1880's when the Oxford Movement of the Episcopal Church at large encouraged a center aisle processional. The hall was sectioned with four rows, or bays, of pews, two bays flanking a newly made center aisle and a single bay against the outside walls following each side aisle. Box pews were eliminated, but the original pew doors reused down the new center aisle and on the two outer bays down the side aisles. The 1843 arrangement provided enough doors for four rows of doors, but not enough for all of the ca.1880 pew entries, which was the reason why there are no doors to the outer sides of the two center sections. The floor of the hall is canted towards the ca.1880 altar.

Older congregation members recall that there had been no vestibule until around 1900. Entry was directly into the church hall with a gallery at the back that was approached by tight-winding stairs to each southern corner of the gallery/balcony. Probably because of drafts, a partition wall was built where the over-hanging gallery ended and the gallery done away with. The vestibule, the full width of the south gable wall, divided the hall roughly into one-fifth vestibule and four-fifths hall. Within the last twenty years, the vestibule has been again divided into two rooms, one-third Sunday school/nursery and two-thirds vestibule. When the gallery was removed, three sets of grained, swinging double doors were installed to lead into the three aisles in the hall.

With the ca.1880 rearrangement of the interior, the table/altar was replaced with a broad free-standing altar two steps above the canted floor of the hall. The organ console and choir are on the right side, or east side, of the first raised platform and chairs for the clergy are on the left, or west, side of the new altar. The altar, then, was raised one more step to be above all else in the chancel. The altar area is partially enclosed with a low, wooden railing. Most striking are the carved altar and choir screens. The triple-tiered, closed altar screen is believed to have been done at the time of the rebuilding in 1843, but may have been part of the 1880s remodeling. The open choir screens were a memorial gift to the church in 1890 by the Chrisman family and finished in 1896. The choir screens are exact copies of the earlier work in design and crest rail, differing only slightly in less rounding of edges and meticulous hand

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rubbing of the finished product. The closed altar screen covers the inside entrance to the sacristy and may have been a screen and back-drop for the table/altar of 1843. No record was found in church Minutes until the Chrisman memorial gift of the choir screens was dated.

There are two sedilia on the edge of the first platform in front of the altar facing each other rather than the congregation. A sedile is a box enclosure with one seat in it where a member of the clergy may sit during the service. These, too, were memorial gifts. A finely carved free-standing lectern stands to the west of the altar platform in front of that choir screen.

Inside, wooden louvered shutters are provided for each window. Four electrified brass chandeliers hang from the seventeen and a half foot high flat sectioned and boarded ceiling. The ceiling is finished in square sections of narrow pine boards stained a dark brown. The boarding was placed over a plastered ceiling about 1920. Four heavy support beams cross the ceiling and are buttressed at the side walls by large wooden brackets cut through with the trefoil pattern. The electrified chandeliers with four matching wall fixtures were also a memorial gift installed in 1960, replacing four oil lamps in a center iron hanging fixture. The sacristy, entered through a Gothic door behind the altar screen, retains a ceiling hook for a hanging lamp. A patch in the plaster wall indicates that a stove heated the sacristy at one time. Four patches in the side walls of the church proper indicate that four stoves heated the hall before the pipeless heater was installed. The cellar is still dirt-floored and is entered only through a trap door just inside the east front door.

Since the 1843 church building, almost twice the size of the first building, was built over early graves, there is cellar only under the south half of the 1843 building. When the pipeless heater was installed in 1919, extra digging in the cellar produced human bones. This could explain the reason why the earliest graves in the churchyard are tight against the east wall of the building, and by dates, preceded the 1806 congregation. However, the 18th century stones may have been moved after 1806 from an earlier burying ground of Seventh-Day Baptists (dated 1727) in the township.

The integrity of the outside of this building to its 1843 date is extremely high, incorporating the site of the 1806 church and graves. The inside arrangement is authentic to the ca.1880 changes. No other churches in the area can claim so much authenticity to such an early period. It remains true to the style and needs of its early congregations, and has never deviated from their first simple, direct expression of reverence in a rural community.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

ARCHITECTURE

1843-1909

1843

Cultural Affiliation
n/a

Significant Person
n/a

Architect/Builder
unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church is architecturally important for its interpretation of Gothic Revival ecclesiastical style and certain internal features of unusual merit. The present stuccoed stone building, although internally renovated after 1880, appears outwardly as it did in 1843 except that a belfry was added in 1909. St. Mary's, with its cemetery, enclosing wall and burials, maintains the highest degree of integrity as an intact example of early Gothic Revival architecture. Since the significance of the church is architectural, it meets Criteria Consideration A.

St. Mary's has no spires or cruciform design. Rather it holds to the plain Church Hall form with a broad gable roof unlike the high roof pitch found in later examples of Gothic Revival architecture. Gothic touch is seen in the use of the pointed arch at doors and windows which effectively declare it a church of the mid 19th century. The tall, clear glass windows on four sides, each ending in a perfectly proportioned pointed arch, many-paned sash, and two pointed arch entrance doors are the main external architectural features, and immediately declare Gothic influence.

Replacing an 1806 stone church, which in turn replaced a log meetinghouse, the 1843 church was built by local artisans to the design favored by its renowned founder and long-time minister, Rev. Levi Bull. Each church building graduated in size from its predecessor, and each was built on the one-room Church Hall plan. Rev. Bull's favorite form was double entrance facade in the gable end, with clear, many-paned windows, and high flat interiors. Rev. Bull retired four years after the 1843 construction in ailing health, although he assisted at services until his death in 1859. After 1880, a great surge of religious fervor out of Oxford, England, washed across Episcopal churches in America. This 'Oxford Movement' caused the internal changes to St. Mary's hall as liturgical form and vested clergy and choir processions were advocated. Many American churches were rejuvenated or rebuilt as a result of this advocacy.

However, the new forms worked best with a center aisle which St. Mary's, and many country churches of the day, did not have. St. Mary's, as designed, had a row of box pews along each side and a double row of connected pews down the center. About 1884, plans were made to part the center section of double pews to make the center aisle. The box pews were removed in favor of single pews for more seating capacity. With the usual lag from decision to performance, this was not accomplished until the early 1900s.

In the meanwhile, changes were made in the chancel. The altar was raised, finely

See continuation sheet

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carved, heavy rood screens, a unique feature for an otherwise plain church, appeared, a lectern was added, and after 1900, the vestibule replaced the balcony to cut drafts from the two front doors blowing into the church hall. No outside changes were made. The Vestry Minutes give little information that would date the rood screens. Of a certainty, the reredos (carved screen behind the altar) was done apart from the choir screens and by a different hand, although both are finely worked. The choir screens are mentioned in Vestry Minutes as being a memorial to a fallen son in 1896. These changes were brought about not by one vicar, but under the pastorates of six rectors: Arnold-1880. Baird-1887, Baer-1890, Davis-1893, Mably-1893, Burton-1896, and Balantine-1904...showing how insecure was the leadership after Bull's death. Essentially work was directed by Vestry and Congregation which remained constant.

No records of St. Mary's parish precede those beginning in 1806, nor is there any indication of a settled pastor before Rev. Bull; however, Hopewell Furnace records state that workers and ironmaster had the choice of going to tiny Bethesda (or Lloyd's) Baptist Church (now part of Hopewell Furnace, NHS) or attending St. Mary's. The ironmasters' names with contributing sums are found on St. Mary's rolls in 1806 along with many of the iron workers' names.

Worshippers had met intermittently at private homes until a small log meetinghouse was built on a corner of land owned by Joseph Phillips next to the Warwick Mine Tract. Here they also buried their dead. There is no record of when this log church began, but one of the oldest possessions of the present church is the leather bound altar Bible, printed in 1772 by T. Wright and W. Gill, Printers to the University; and sold by S. Crowder in Paternoster Row, London; and by W. Jackson, in Oxford. "St. Mary's Church" is embossed on the leather cover. No names or notations were found that might indicate whether or not this was a gift to the Meeting or was purchased by the Meeting, or at what date. Also lost to time is any recollection of an hour-glass pulpit in the 1806 church except for a reference to it in the records of St. Mary's 150th anniversary celebration in 1956.

When excavation was done for the 1843 church, unmarked burials were found close on the north side of the 1806 building. This is the reason why there is only a partial dirt basement which is under the 1806 part of the building. At the time of installing a pipeless heater to the 1843 building, this had been forgotten, but on finding human bones, excavations were halted and the heating moved to the south (1806) end.

The 1843 architecture of St. Mary's Church represents the early religious simplicity of the "Church Hall", but includes the English country Gothic experience in use of the pointed arch at windows and doors and the altar and choir screens. Its present original facade is identical to a ca.1850 photograph of St. Thomas, Morgantown, which claims to have had that facade from 1825 to 1862, the building date being within the period when Rev. Bull was its pastor. That church, however, was completely changed in 1862 when a second floor was added. Both St. Andrew's Episcopal, West Vincent Township, and St. Mark's Episcopal, Honey Brook Township - both congregations gathered by Rev. Bull in 1833 and 1835, respectively - used the same double entrance gable-end facade when they were built. Fortunately, St. Andrew's was closed at the time of the Oxford Movement, and therefore, has retained its box pews, canted floor and beautiful 15/15 clear-glass

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windows. (It is now open again and thriving.) About 1900, St. Mark's not only changed its chancel from north to south, but also added a triple, round-topped, stained glass window above it. The canted floor was leveled, and in the mid-twentieth century, the side windows were changed to memorial stained glass.

Other denominational churches in the larger area have almost universally accepted the stained glass windows in place of clear sunlit ones. Many became two story buildings after ca.1860, and others are totally replaced with more modern designs. None are more true to their origins than is St. Mary's. Moreover, the reredos and the choir screens at St. Mary's are the only such ornamentation of that kind in the area. Believed to be of the Oxford Movement period, they add an extra dimension to the interior that bespeaks growth and grace with modest change within the directions of the congregation. For Rev. Bull, the plain hall with sunny windows and canted floor to bend to the will of God were fundamental to his open-hearted message of love with understanding for all mankind. His gospel needed no ornamentation.

Outwardly, St. Mary's Church, approached through wrought iron gates on a level with the road in front, is symbolic of man's open path heavenward, the canted floor of the hall toward the sacramental table or chancel to remind man of his need for absolution and prayerful quest for forgiveness of sins. The Gothic windows pointing upward is another use of symbolism in ecclesiastical architecture, and the deeply carved altar and screens a desire to offer something fine and beautiful out of the spirit of man to his perception of the Creator.

Of Rev. Bull's churches, only St. Mary's and St. Andrew's have kept the appearance of their respective building dates. Since then, its present congregation has built a new and larger building on unadjacent ground purchased by old St. Mary's in 1898 for additional cemetery and a Potter's Field. Currently leased to a young Independent Baptist congregation for services, St. Mary's continues to be an active participant in the life of Warwick Township.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.3 acres

UTM References

A 18 433475 4446250
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

All of Tax Parcel #19-4-61.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The Tax Parcel encloses all of the land for old St. Mary's Episcopal Church and its cemetery as of 1995. This is the historic boundary except 42 perches on the south side of Warwick Road which was sold off individually about 100 years ago.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Estelle Cremers, Historical Land Research for Warwick Township Historical Commission
 organization & French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust date September 29, 1995
 street & number 1801 Ridge Road (Cremers-contact) telephone 610-469-6977
 city or town Pottstown, state Pennsylvania zip code 19465-8812

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Journals of the Conventions of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania printed by Fry, William, Prune Street, Philadelphia, PA. 1807-1849, held at The Archives of The Episcopal Church, USA, P.O. Box 2247, Austin, Texas, 78768. Contains individual yearly parochial reports for St. Mary's, Warwick, St. Thomas and Bangor Episcopal churches and others, as given by Rev. Levi Bull.

Obituary for Rev. Levi Bull, D.D. (8/2/1859). Anonymous. Reported in the April 1860 Protestant Episcopal Quarterly Review.

Hotchkin, Rev. S.F. A History of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Warwick, Chester County Hotchkin was the Registrar of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. ca. 1904.

Douglass, Rev. Benjamin. Country Clergy of Pennsylvania.

Bull, Capt. James H., U.S.Navy. The Bulls of Parkeomink, Montgomery County, PA. and Their Descendants. Held at Historical Society of Montgomery County. Publ. by The Society and St. James Church, New Providence, PA. June 1, 1907.

Edited by the New York Tract Society. ADDRESS of the Protestant Episcopal Society for the Promotion of Evangelical Knowledge. 1880.

National Register properties: Bangor Episcopal Church, Caernarvon Township, Lancaster, PA. 7/26/1970; St. Michael's Protestant Episcopal Church, Parish House and Rectory, Birdsboro, Berks County, PA. 4/8/1982; St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley, Paoli, PA. 1970; The Thomas Bull House (Mt. Pleasant), East Nantmeal Township, Chester County, PA. 1972/73.

Goodling, Jr., Evans C. St. Thomas Church, Morgantown, PA. A Parish History, 1740-1990 Publ. by Goodling, Jr., Evans B. Chapters I, II, and particularly III (The Era of The Rev. Levi Bull).

Mast, J. Lemar & Lois Ann. As Long As Wood Grows and Water Flows. Publ. by Conestoga Mennonite Historical Commission. Printed by Tursack Printing, Inc., Pottstown, PA. 1982 Chapters 2 and 3.

Mast, C.Z. ADDRESS in St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Morgantown, PA. 7/26/1870

Mast, C.Z. and Simpson, R.E. Annals of Conestoga Valley, Chapters 6,7,8, & 48. Publ. by Mast & Simpson, 1942.

Anonymous. "Memoir of the Rev. Levi Bull, D.D." No author or publisher given. Printer: John A. Gray, Printer/Stereotyper. Possibly as reviewed in The Episcopal Quarterly Review under Personalities. New York. or possibly a small individually published piece for it had a cover sheet reading as above. This may have been a reprint. Found at Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Cadbury, Olive C. "Saint Mary's Episcopal Church of Warwick Township. 150th Anniversary Celebration" Honey Brook Herald Newspaper, October 18, 1956.

Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA. Clipping files and family names.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church memorabilia and assistance. Rev. John Maher, Rector.

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Twelves, J. Lesley. Histories of Episcopal Clergy. Diocese of Pennsylvania, 1920

St. Mary's Church Records of Parish and Vestry Meeting. Original records held by the church and duplicated for files of Warwick Township Historical Commission and The Tri-County Heritage Society. 1806-1900. Very brief, sketchy notes of meetings, but helpful for memorials and renovations.