

# Saint Paul's Church National Historic Site

1664

Thomas Pell grants a portion of his land, which becomes the nucleus of Eastchester, to James Eustis, Philip Pickney and other.

1665

The twenty-seven articles of agreement which will govern Eastchester are drawn up. This document also establishes the congregation of the Church at Eastchester.

1699

The second church/meeting house is built at tax payer expense. Building of this edifice is mentioned in the town records as early as 1691, but from the historic record seems to have been built c. 1699/1700.

1701

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts is established in London. The British Monarch declares that all the church edifices belong to the Church of England but St. Paul's parishioners resist. Ministers are now imposed upon the parishes who heretofore selected whomever they wished.

1706

The Reverend John Bartow now holds regular Church of England services at the Church at Eastchester (St. Paul's).

1711

The town of Eastchester sets aside land adjacent to St. Paul's Church for use as a Village Green. At this period the sexton beats a drum to call people to church; the militia drills on the green and stocks are also erected on the green.

1733

The Great Election of 1733 is held on the Village Green. The freeholders of Westchester thwart an attempt by a corrupt governor to manipulate an important election to his political advantage.

1758

A bell is presented by the Reverend Thomas Standard, the second of the Anglican Ministers sent here by the S<sup>P</sup>C, who ministered to the parishioners of the Church at Eastchester for over thirty years. Cast at the Whitechapel Foundry in London, as was the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, it first hangs in the belfry of the second church and then in the present St. Paul's.

1763

Construction of the present church edifice begins using fieldstone and timber from nearby farms. Shells from Eastchester Creek and sand from a sandpit in the churchyard are mixed with lime from Long Island to make the mortar.

1775

General Washington orders all church bells buried so they could not be melted down for use as ammunition. Tradition says the church bible, prayer book and communion silver were hidden inside the Eastchester Church Bell before it was buried on a farm close by.

1776

On October 18, 1776, the Battle of Pell's Point takes place. Following this attack, the church is seized by English and Hessian troops and turned into a hospital. It is thought that approximately 100 of these soldiers died; they were buried in the open sandpit dug by the men of Eastchester during the construction of the church.

1784

Reverend Samuel Seabury, a former rector of the Church at Eastchester, becomes the first bishop of the then newly formed Episcopal Church in the United States.

1787

Construction is once again carried forward on the church edifice. For a time the church is also used as a court house; Aaron Burr is one of the lawyers to practice in this court.

1797

Among the pewholders and vestrymen at this time are the Pells, Van Cortlandts, Rhinelanders, Pinkneys, Bartows, Wards, Valentines, Morgans, Drakes, Townsends, Fowlers, Gulons, Huestices, Webbs, Crawfords, Underhills, Rapeljes, Honeywells and Roosevelts.

1805

St. Paul's Church is finally completed.

1825

General Lafayette visits the grave of his friend, Col. Philip Pell III, who lies buried in St. Paul's Churchyard.

1829

George Washington Adams, son of President John Quincy Adams and grandson of John Adams, is drowned in the Long Island Sound. His body is found by a warden of the church when it washed up on the shores of Eastchester Creek. The body is temporarily interred in a vault in the churchyard.

1842

Restoration to the 1787 interior is completed by Perry, Shaw and Hepburn, the architectural firm for "Colonial Williamsburg."

1832

An organ built by Henry Erben, c. 1830, is given to St. Paul's by George Rapelje, a parishioner. It remains among the oldest working organs in the country.

1943

July 5, 1943, the Secretary of the Interior declares St. Paul's Church a National Historic Site.

1931-1941

Restoration of the church is undertaken by a committee of prominent people whose chairman is Sara Delano Roosevelt, mother of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and a collateral descendant of an original pew holder.

1980

The National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, assumes ownership of St. Paul's Church through generous donations of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and the City of Mount Vernon.

1984

St. Paul's Church National Historic Site opens to the public.



# St. Paul's Church National Historic Site

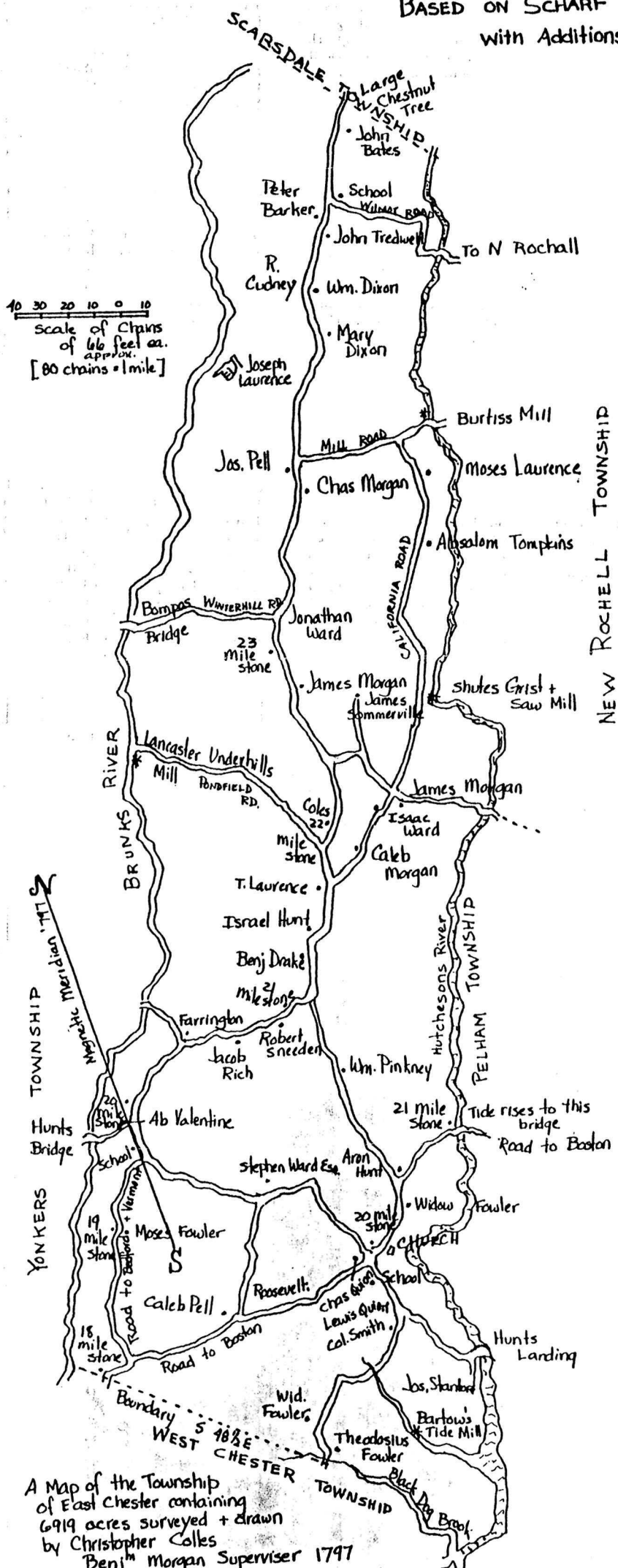
897 South Columbus Avenue • Mount Vernon, New York 10550 • (914) 667-4116 for information



The original township of Eastchester was bounded by the Bronx River on the west, Eastchester Creek and the Hutchinson River on the east, with Scarsdale being the northern boundary and the Town of Westchester and Black Dog Brook the southern boundary, the total area being seven miles long and two plus miles wide. By 1797, when this map was made, Eastchester had a total of fifty buildings: one church (St. Paul's), four taverns, four mills, four schools and thirty seven dwellings. The population then numbered about six hundred souls.

## MAP OF EASTCHESTER

BASED ON SCHARF  
with Additions



A Map of the Township of Eastchester containing 6919 acres surveyed + drawn by Christopher Colles Benj<sup>m</sup> Morgan Supervisor 1797  
cost x s d  
25. 8. 6

DA/... 1995