

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

VLR: 04/21/81 NRHP: 09/09/82

1. Name

historic St. Paul's Church

and/or common n/a

2. Location

street & number 605 Clay Street n/a not for publication
city, town Lynchburg n/a vicinity of congressional district Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)
state Virginia code 51 county (in city) code 680

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"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Vestry, St, Paul's Episcopal Church, c/o Senior Warden

street & number 605 Clay Street

city, town Lynchburg n/a vicinity of state Virginia 24504

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk's Office, Lynchburg City Courthouse

street & number 900 Court Street

city, town Lynchburg state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None Previously Recorded has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date n/a federal n/a state county local

depository for survey records n/a

city, town n/a state n/a

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Paul's Church is constructed of gray granite, quarried in Southwest Virginia, and is trimmed with brownstone. The brownstone trim is smooth faced and is used only sparingly at salient points such as the raking cornices of the gables. The granite walls are rock faced to emphasize the solidarity and ruggedness of the building. Slightly protruding courses of granite create rough quoins at various corners of the church. Similar courses of rough granite protrude from the wall to form belt courses.

As befits the basic tenets of Romanesque design, St. Paul's is almost elemental in its straightforward simplicity. Only a few well-placed and perfectly disposed components make up the exterior. Trim and ornamental detail is hardly present and always subservient to the overall mass. The most prominent feature is the tower, rising southeast of the entrance and effectively anchoring the corner at the intersection of Seventh and Clay streets. At ground level, the tower plane is flush with the walls of the church. On the front of this stage of the tower is the cornerstone, a smooth brownstone panel with only the date, incised in Roman numerals. Above, several rows of smooth stone set on a slope act as a buttress for the wall of the recessed tower face on the two sides away from the church. At the corner, a square buttress rises partway up the height of the tower, terminating in an octagonal stage. The tower proper continues above, with its main stage culminating in a cornice below the belfry. Each face of the belfry is composed of three arches separated from each other by simple piers. The belfry is capped by a cornice with large modillions, above which is a short pyramidal roof with a cross at its apex. The belfry was not completed until the 20th century and departs in several respects from the original conception. As shown in the architect's published design, the arches would have been separated by squat columns, not piers, and instead of the modillioned cornice, there would have been a coved one with projecting gargoyles at each corner. The cross at the apex of the pyramidal roof is also a feature not shown in the published design.

The facade is centered with the main entrance to the church, a massive rounded arch whose spring line is only four feet above the level of the entrance platform. The arch is defined by rough voussoirs, and the deep reveal is fully open. Originally the doors contained within the arch were wooden with heavy iron hinges. These were later replaced by ornamental iron doors containing plate glass. Three arched windows above the entrance and a gable decorated with a checkerboard pattern of alternating granite and brownstone blocks complete the decorative elements of the facade. To the north, the wall terminates in a rounded section, capped with a conical sectioned hipped roof.

Along the Seventh Street side, and in the rear, the massive quality of the walls is further revealed. Here the exposed basement walls are battered and contain narrow windows with deep reveals. Above, on the Seventh Street side, the walls of the transept project slightly from the walls of the nave and chancel. An identical arrangement exists on the opposite side of the church. While the transepts are extremely shallow, their presence is emphasized by the broad expanses of slate-covered gable roofs above. Both transepts contain a row of five large arched windows.

The front doors of the church lead into a vestibule which extends across the rear of the nave. To the left, occupying the first floor within the tower is a stairway to the rear gallery, now the organ and choir loft. To the right of the vestibule, occupying the the rounded projection, is a small chapel. Three doors open from the vestibule into the nave, which is arranged in the form of a Latin cross. The shallow transepts and deep chancel

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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

Specific dates 1891-95 **Builder/Architect** Frank Miles Day (architect)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Paul's Church, built in 1891-95, is one of Virginia's major examples of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. Larger and of greater architectural significance than the majority of the state's Episcopal churches of the late 19th century, St. Paul's exemplifies both a period of great growth and prosperity in Lynchburg and a membership composed of a number of business and professional leaders of the city. The architect of the church was Frank Miles Day of Philadelphia, whose design was published in the January 10, 1891, issue of American Architect and Building News. The church houses Lynchburg's oldest Episcopal parish, which was established in 1822, and is the third church erected by the congregation. St. Paul's counts as its close neighbors a concentration of other architecturally significant late 19th-century churches and with them forms an impressive ecclesiastical center on a hill above the downtown business section of Lynchburg.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On Easter 1887, the vestry of St. Paul's Church provided the church members with a published brochure entitled "Appeal to the Congregation of St. Paul's Church, Lynchburg, Virginia, by its Vestry." The appeal was for the building of a new church to replace a building which had served the parish since 1852. The old church, the vestry declared, was not only "too small to seat the congregation, but it is without any of the conveniences and appurtenances which modern church architecture suggests as essential." Confident that their appeal would meet with approval, the vestry announced that a new lot had already been purchased for the proposed church. Located on an elevated and level site, the newly acquired property at the corner of Clay and Seventh streets was declared to be "the best lot in the city for a church...and will answer all the requirements of our church for all time to come."

As was hoped and expected, the congregation went along with the vestry, and plans for the new church were developed, though at a more leisurely pace than the vestry might have wished. Unfortunately, the vestry minute books for the period have been lost, and other, less complete records must be relied upon to put together the story of the building. On January 28, 1888, the American Architect and Building News announced that H. H. Law, architect of Washington, D. C., would prepare plans for the new St. Paul's. Law did not receive the final commission, however, for on January 10, 1891, the same magazine published a rendering of the church and a sketch plan by a young architect from Philadelphia, Frank Miles Day. Day, who was later to become president of the American Institute of Architects, is generally remembered for his notable collegiate Gothic designs at campuses such as Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, Yale, and Wellesley. Thus, St. Paul's gains added architectural interest as both an early example of Day's work and as a demonstration of his proficiency in an architectural style other than that which he most frequently employed.

The cornerstone of the church was laid on May 26, 1891, but the first service was not held until the Sunday before Christmas 1895. Even then, the church building was not finished,

9. Major Bibliographical References

Appeal to the Congregation of St. Paul's Church..by its Vestry. Lynchburg, 1887.
Blackford, Charles Minor. Historical Sketch of St. Paul's Church. Lynchburg, 1887.
Cabell, Mrs. Clifford. Sketches and Recollections of Lynchburg, by the Oldest Inhabitant.
Richmond, 1857.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Lynchburg, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMP References

A

1	7	6	6	3	9	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing	

B

Zone		Easting				Northing	

C

Zone		Easting				Northing	

D

Zone		Easting				Northing	

E

Zone		Easting				Northing	

F

Zone		Easting				Northing	

G

Zone		Easting				Northing	

H

Zone		Easting				Northing	

Verbal boundary description and justification Occupying W corner lot at 7th and Clay Sts., measuring 160' x 165", the 165' fronting on Clay St. JUSTIFICATION: The bounds have been drawn to encompass the church and parish house.

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Foam Prepared By

name/title S. Allen Chambers for Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date April 1982

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

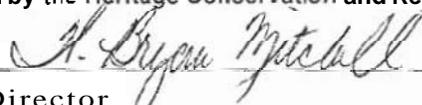
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date MAY 10 1982

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest;

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

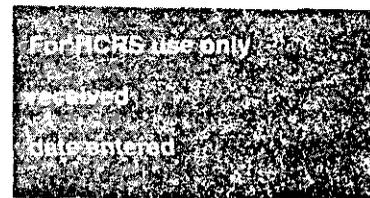
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

St. Paul's Church, Lynchburg, Virginia

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7,8

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7. DESCRIPTION

are defined by massive Romanesque arches springing from short pillars. Romanesque impost blocks are prominently featured, and the arches are decorated with chevrons. The broad soffits of the arches are decorated with stenciled figures of angels, a later decoration. Above the nave and transepts is an open-timber roof, while the chancel ceiling is flat and divided by wooden ribs into panels.

Originally the recessed chancel contained a divided choir with organ pipes contained within an arch to the left and the console in a similar position to the right. After a remodeling in the 1970s, the organ and choir were relocated in the rear balcony, and much of the chancel furniture was removed. Although a deviation from the original arrangement, the present uncluttered chancel accords extremely well with the Romanesque architectural conception. The interior of the church is further highlighted by a unified series of stained-glass windows containing images of Old Testament figures on the left, or epistle, side of the nave and New Testament figures on the right, or gospel, side. Above the altar is a modified Palladian window containing as its subject the Second Coming of Christ. All the windows are in the style of Louis Comfort Tiffany, and although they have always been attributed to that artist, no confirmation of this tradition has yet been made. Vestry books for the period during which the church was built and the windows installed, which might be able to identify the artisan, have been lost.

Northwest of the church, and connected to the chancel by a glazed arcade, is the parish house. Although not built until 1912 and designed by another architect, this addition harmonizes extremely well with the earlier church. Built of the same basic materials, it has design features which are taken from the church as well. Entrance to the parish house is through an arched opening set at an angle between the main rectangular section of the building and a protruding ell. This arch echoes, on a smaller scale, the main entrance to the church, while three connected arched windows at the second-floor level of the ell repeat the motif of the three windows on the facade of the church.

The sanctuary is set close to the intersection of Clay and Seventh streets, affording little room for landscaping. The yard of the parish house is planted with boxwood and magnolias, with vinca minor as a ground cover. The walk to the parish house and the paved area in front of the church entrance are of flagstones.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

and it was not until 1912 that the tower was built. Architects for the top stages of the tower were the Lynchburg firm of Burnham and Lewis, who departed from Day's design as published in 1891. At the same time they provided drawings for the tower, Lewis and Burnham were commissioned to design a parish house, which would cost \$20,000, according to the June 22, 1910, issue of American Architect. Completed in 1912, the parish house is an effective architectural complement to the earlier sanctuary. By 1960, however, the facilities afforded by the 1912 parish house were inadequate, and the church purchased an adjoining property to serve as a new parish house. The property acquired was the Carter Glass House, on the corner of Clay and Sixth streets. Built in 1826, an excellent example of early Greek Revival architecture, the Glass House has been designated as a National Historic Landmark because it was the home of U.S. Senator Carter Glass, founder of the Federal Reserve Banking system and Secretary of the United States Treasury. The Glass House now serves as the parish house with the former parish house having been refitted primarily for Sunday School rooms.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

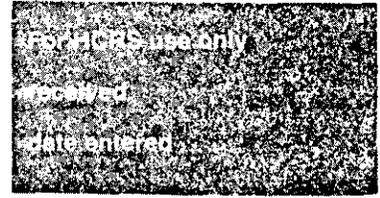
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

St. Paul's Church, Lynchburg, Virginia

Continuation sheet #2

Item number 8

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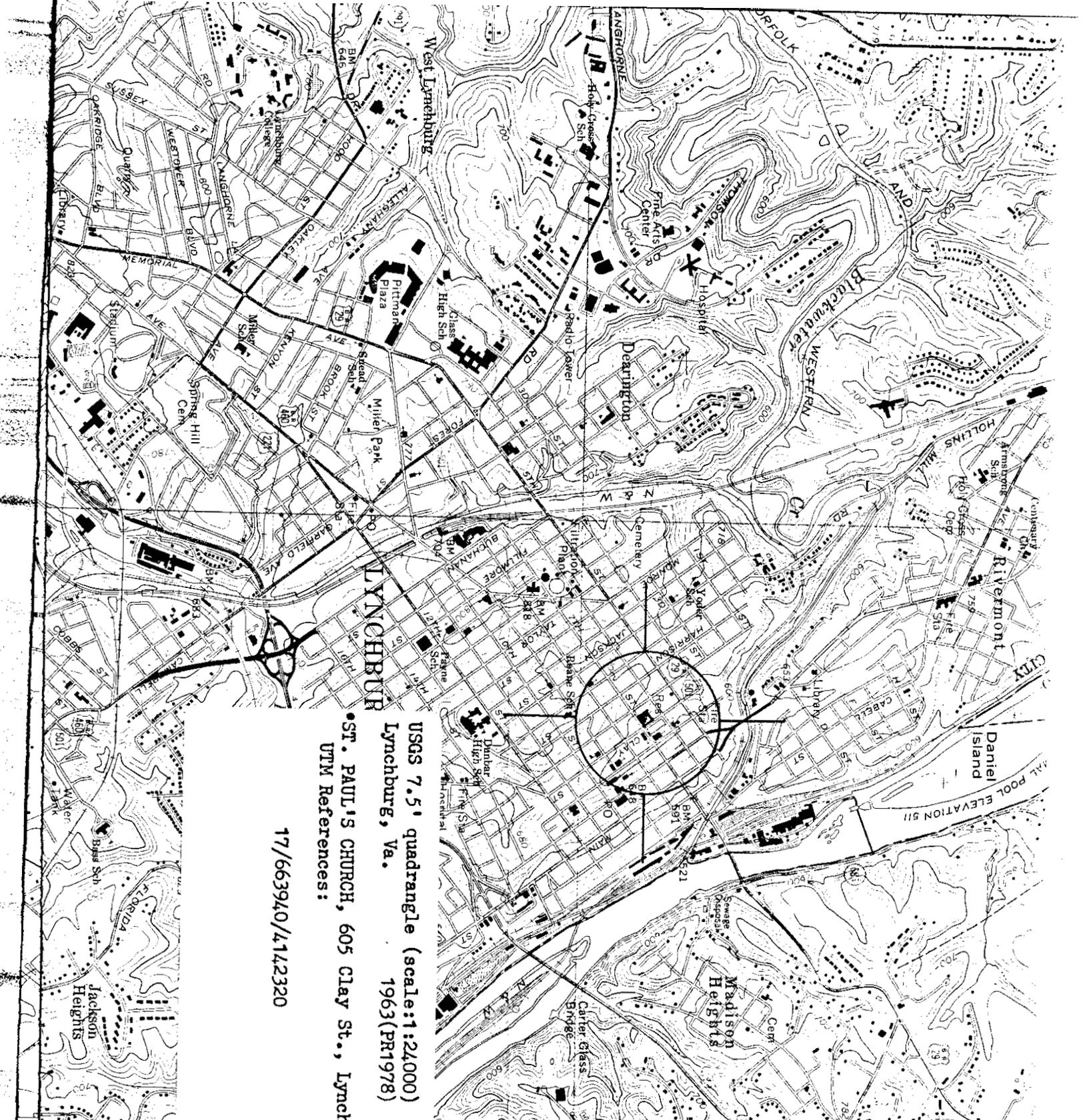


8. SIGNIFICANCE

As the oldest Episcopal parish in Lynchburg, St. Paul's is regarded as the parent church of all the other Episcopal churches in the city. In addition, St. Paul's was instrumental in the establishment of Virginia Episcopal School, a young men's preparatory school, and in securing its location in Lynchburg. In more recent years, the church has taken a leading role in a number of cooperative ventures with other nearby churches to minister to the needs of the population residing in the downtown area.

Although the oldest, St. Paul's remains one of the most active and viable of the several Episcopal churches in the city. Its membership is well aware of the architectural and historical significance of the church and parish house and maintains them in excellent condition.

SAC



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
 Lynchburg, Va. 1963(PR1978)

• ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, 605 Clay St., Lynchburg, Va.
 UTM References:

17/663940/4142320

4144
 25'
 4142
 4140