

VLR-3/20/79 NRHP-6/18/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED Jun 18 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Christ Church

AND/OR COMMON

Christ and St. Luke's Church (Preferred)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

560 West Olney Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Norfolk

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second (G. William Whitehurst)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

(in city)

CODE

710

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Christ and St. Luke's Church c/o Pastor

STREET & NUMBER

560 West Olney Road

CITY, TOWN

Norfolk

STATE

Virginia 23507

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Norfolk City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Norfolk

STATE

Virginia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

1978

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated at West Olney Road and Stockley Gardens in Norfolk, Christ and St. Luke's Church is a long, narrow building of rough-faced random ashlar in the English Perpendicular Gothic Revival style. The plan of the church is that of a traditional gable-roof basilica.

The main (south) facade at 560 West Olney Road is dominated by an entrance and bell tower. The tower is visually divided into four stages by smooth-polished stone belt courses that contrast with the rough ashlar. The first stage of the tower contains the main entrance of the church, consisting of a drop-arch double door topped by a blind transom. Carved stone quatrefoils ornament the spandrel. The door is encased in a highly ornamented frame, and the jambs are decorated with mid-relief carvings, including statues of St. Peter and St. Paul which occupy niches to the left and right of the door. Paired stained-glass windows topped by label molds occupy the tower's west elevation. The tower's second stage consists of arched stained-glass windows. The third stage of two stories is composed of small casement windows set between stone pilasters. The tower's fourth stage is comprised of the bell tower. Paired arched openings decorated with tracery constitute the fenestration. The top of the tower is crowned with battlements and pinnacles with crockets.

Adjoining the tower is the nave of the church. The south elevation contains a large drop-arch, stained-glass window embellished with trefoil panel tracery. Angle buttresses define the corners of the nave. A small canopied niche in the gable contains a statue of Christ. A cross marks the apex of the gable.

The west elevation contains the Stockley Gardens entrance. Enclosed within an angle-buttressed porch, the drop-arch entry contains paneled double doors crowned by a blind transom. Carved stone quatrefoils ornament the spandrel. A statue of St. Stephen is contained within a canopied niche above the doorway. On the aisle, arched stained-glass windows are ornamented with panel tracery. The clerestory contains elongated arched stained-glass windows with panel tracery. A transept contains a stained-glass lancet on the second story. The corners of the aisle are defined by angle buttresses.

The north end of the church contains the chancel. Above the altar is an arched stained-glass window with panel tracery. The east elevation contains a side entrance enclosed within a buttressed porch. A lancet window is found above the double-door entry, similar in execution to that found on the west elevation. Fenestration mirrors that found on the west elevation.

Christ and St. Luke's contains a distinguished interior. The focal point of the interior is the Newton Memorial reredos behind the main altar. The central figure of the reredos is Christ, the Good Shepherd. Then, beginning with the Apostolate and continuing through history, it contains statues of the bishops of the Greek, Roman, and English churches who carried the apostolic succession to the first bishop in America (Seabury) and the first bishop in Virginia (Madison). On either side of the reredos are the four Evangelists. A carved relief of the Last Supper decorates the area immediately behind the altar. The memorial statues in canopied niches over the columns in the nave supplement the reredos and carry the history of the church through the ages. (Hughe, p. 4)

In the Selden Memorial Chapel, to the east of the main altar, the statues represent the womanhood of the church. In the center of the reredos is a statue of the Virgin Mother with the Christ Child. Other statues represent, left to right on the Gospel side: St. Hilda and St. Elizabeth; and on the Epistle side: St. Monica and Pocahontas. To the left of the reredos is St. Perpetua, and to the right is St. Blandina. Four angels grace  
(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 checked="" 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 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      1909-1910      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Watson & Huckle

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Christ and St. Luke's Church, an architectural monument in the English Perpendicular style, is one of the State's outstanding examples of the Late Gothic Revival. The church is also a direct descendant of the earliest Episcopal church in the venerable Elizabeth River Parish. Erected as Christ Church in 1909-1910, the plans of the present edifice on West Olney Road are the work of the Philadelphia firm of Watson and Huckle.

A parish church was established in Norfolk at Sewell's Point in 1637. The church later moved to Church Street and in 1739 was renamed the Borough Church. It was then the only church of Elizabeth River Parish. In 1788 a congregational split occurred separating the followers of William Bland (the minority) and Alexander Whitehead. Bland was subsequently "degraded" from the ministry by Bishop Madison, and the Whitehead contingent was recognized as the rightful representatives of the Norfolk Borough Church at the Diocesan Convention in 1790. In 1800 the Whitehead group left the 1739 building and erected a new church across the street, renaming it "Christ Church". This building was destroyed by fire in 1827 and was replaced by a Greek Revival building on Freemason Street which the congregation abandoned in 1910 for its new Gothic edifice on West Olney Road. By 1803 the Bland group that retained possession of the old building had died out, and the old church was used as a Sunday School. The Episcopal Congregation of Norfolk grew, and in 1832 a group of members of Christ Church formed the St. Paul's Congregation. Christ Church supported the group and allowed them the use of the 1739 building. Further separation occurred in 1871, when a group from both Christ Church and St. Paul's formed a new congregation, called St. Luke's. The St. Luke's congregation merged with Christ Church in 1935 to form the present Christ and St. Luke's.

At the time of the church's building, a new spirit of admiration for the Gothic style had swept America. Inspired by Henry Adams's Mont St. Michel and Chartres, a new, more sophisticated interest was kindled, resulting in a genuine reverence and popularization of the Gothic. Unlike the Gothic Revival of the mid-nineteenth century, the twentieth-century revival was more academic and archaeological in nature, as exemplified in the architecture of Ralph Adams Cram and his followers. Cram's beloved English Gothic, particularly the Perpendicular and Tudor modes, became the primary source for the new architectural style.

Watson and Huckle, who designed Christ and St. Luke's in the Perpendicular style, were Philadelphia architects whose firm specialized in ecclesiastical architecture. Contemporaneous with the Norfolk church, the firm designed a number of public buildings that included the Catholic Church of the Epiphany in Philadelphia and St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Frankford, Pennsylvania.

Erected in stone, Christ and St. Luke's is among the purest expressions of Gothic architecture in Virginia. The church, through the complementary use of beautifully carved detailing and richly colored stained glass, is a successful adaptation of the English Perpendicular style to the worship of Episcopalians. It is particularly fitting that the

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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Christ and St. Luke's Church, Norfolk, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION

the base of the reredos. The ornamentation of leafage is dogwood. The figure in the stone lectern is the Archangel Gabriel of the Annunciation. (Hughes, pp. 4-5)

The north stained-glass window complements the main reredos and contains Christ in Glory, surrounded by princes and clerics of the church. The windows of the Selden Chapel depict the infancy and boyhood of the Lord, with the baptism in the last bay where the font is placed. The east aisle windows illustrate the ministry and teaching of Christ. The subject of the stained glass in the east vestibule is St. Paul; that in the tower vestibule, St. John the Baptist, preaching. The west window over the bishop's throne has two traditional figures of angels. The interior preserves its original furniture designed for the church building. (Hughes, p. 2)

The main church edifice is complemented by an adjoining two-story parish house and bookstore. The yard in front of the parish house is entered through a wooden lych gate. The main entrance consists of a drop-arch double doorway. The outer double door is surmounted by a trefoil tracery transom. The inner doorway is composed of glass and paneled double doors. Carved stone quatrefoils ornament the spandrels. Flanking the main entrance, first-story, stained-glass casement windows are crowned by drip stone moldings. Second-story, drop-arch windows also contain stained-glass windows with panel tracery. Buttresses terminating in finely carved gablets define the entrance pavilion. Angled buttresses frame the bays of the parish house. The north elevation of the parish house is connected to the parish bookstore by a one-story walkway.

Located at 618 Stockley Gardens, the bookstore is a two-story, rough-faced, random ashlar and wood-frame house designed in the bungalow style. The stone first story is dominated by a Doric columned porch which shelters the main entrance. The second story is covered by wood shingles and features simply framed, 1/1 hung-sash windows. Dormers project from a hip roof.

RCC

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property of Christ and St. Luke's consists of one-and-a-half acres of land. The property is bounded on the south by Olney Road, on the west by Stockley Gardens, on the north by Boissevain Avenue, and on the east by adjacent property of the next city lot. The property fronts on 560 West Olney Road. The nominated acreage is the same as when Christ's Church was erected in 1909/10 and includes the church, parish house, and bookstore--all owned by the church and on the original church lot of 1909.

RCC

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CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

8. SIGNIFICANCE

reredos statues represent historical dignitaries of the Episcopal Church in Virginia as well as America.

The congregation still retains possession of the communion service of the colonial church.

MTP/RCC

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Conversations with A. Heath Light, Pastor. 2-13-79.  
 Ferebee, Edward S. Norfolk's Borough Church. Norfolk, 1977.  
 Forrest, William S. Historical and Descriptive Sketches of Norfolk and Vicinity. Phila., 1853.  
 Hughs, Robert M., Jr. "Christ and St. Luke's Church", n.d. (pamphlet).

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 1/2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 | 384270 | 4079880  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C    |    |   

QUADRANGLE NAME Norfolk South, Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

B    |    |     
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 D    |    |   

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on SE corner of Stockley Gardens and Boissevain Avenue; thence extending about 200' SE along S side of said avenue; thence extending about 300' SW to N side of Olney Road; thence following about 200' NW along said side of said road to intersection with Stockley Gardens; thence extending NE along E side of Stockley Gardens for approximately 300' to point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

March 1979

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

MAR 20 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



CHRIST AND ST. LUKE'S  
CHURCH,  
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

SOURCE: CITY PLANNING  
COMMISSION MAP,  
NORFOLK, VA., 1971

SCALE: 1" = 1600'

VIRGINIA  
SOURCES  
GEOLOGIST

NORFOLK SOUTH QUADRANGLE  
VIRGINIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SE/4 NEWPORT NEWS 15' QUADRANGLE

537' IN W  
LITTLE CREEK

