

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: RICHMOND (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
9 North Fifth Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Richmond (David E. Satterfield, Congressman, Third District)

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: (in cit.)	CODE 760
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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 type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Second Presbyterian Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
9 North Fifth Street

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

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Richmond City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Tenth and Broad Streets

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

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957  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: Richmond (in cit.)

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In contrast to Richmond's penchant for building classical structures Second Presbyterian Church was the first Gothic style church to be built in the city. Completed in 1848, after a design by Minard Lafever, the church was described in a local paper of the day as "a great ornament to the city" and "the most perfect and beautiful specimen of Gothic architecture."

The model for the church is believed to be Plate LXVI, the "new National Scotch Church," from Lafever's Young Builder's General Instructor of 1829. As originally built, the church was a long rectangular structure with aisles and galleries on either side running the length of the church. There were no transepts. To either side of the pulpit was a room, one a library, the other, the pastor's study. At the opposite end of the church was the entrance vestibule with curving stairs to the galleries.

In 1873, the church was enlarged by the addition of the one hundred foot long north-south transept, thus making the shape of the church a "T". The panel-fronted galleries, supported by clustered columns, were continued around through the transepts. At the same time, the ceiling of the church was remodelled. Except for a renovation in 1892, the installation of electric light and heat in 1916, a renovation in 1945 for the church's centennial, and another renovation in 1970, the interior of Second Presbyterian remains basically as it was in 1873.

The focal point of the interior is the raised pulpit (supported by Gothic battlemented posts and reached by a pair of short, panelled stairways) and the large screen behind it. The pulpit screen is divided into three sections, carved in a simple Gothic design. Pinnacle-crowned and battlemented, it rises to a peak in the center, leading the eye up to the groin vaulted ceiling.

The exposed roof of dark-stained wood is divided into rectangular compartments by the intersection of the timbers and supported by a hammer beam truss. There are pendants at each end of the hammer brace, one of plaster and the other of carved wood, and a quatrefoil decoration in wood in the angle of the hammer brace and beam. Two panels in the ceiling have been removed and replaced with skylights in order to illuminate the choir area and organ in the gallery at the rear of the church. Based on English models of the fourteenth century, the roof of Second Presbyterian is exceptionally fine and gives a great deal of elegance to the otherwise simple interior of the church.

The walls of the church are plastered and painted in imitation of ashlar. The nave and transepts are lighted by lancet windows composed of two smaller, diamond-paned lancets with an apical section of stained glass between them. At the ends of the transepts, there are triangular Gothic windows of stained-glass between the large lancet units. The opaque white panes of the lancets allow sufficient daylight into the church while the stained glass windows add rich color. Over the lancet units and doors on the interior of the church are plaster hood mouldings.

The exterior of Second Presbyterian presents very much its original nineteenth century appearance. It is brick veneer with a brownstone belt-course and trim around the doors and brownstone pinnacles on the tower and corners of the church. The four-bayed sides of the nave and the two-bayed transepts are buttressed between the lancet windows. The steep gable roof slopes down to brownstone crenelations which act as a cornice.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE VIRGINIA	
COUNTY RICHMOND (in cit.)	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.

There is a square pinnacled tower with an arched entrance at the front of the church. On the left hand side of the church, an arcade leads to the Parish House, built in 1953.

The mid-nineteenth century, cast-iron fence which surrounds the church is unique in Richmond. It has heavy posts capped with battlemented rims which repeat those used in the pulpit on the interior of the church. These support the gates to the fence while the intervening iron palings are topped by a Gothic tracery pattern that resembles the tongue of flame motif.

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1848

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 checked="" 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

Second Presbyterian was known for many years as "Dr. Hoge's Church," and properly so. The Rev. Mr. Hoge inspired his small congregation to build "the most beautiful church in Virginia." It would not be "the finest or the most costly," but the most tastefully done, "the most symmetrical and pleasing to an educated eye of any other." Superlatives aside: the church, built according to plans supplied by Minard Lafever, is one of the outstanding public buildings of Virginia's mid-nineteenth century.

Moses Drury Hoge, a graduate of Hampden-Sydney, came to Richmond, serving briefly as assistant minister at First Presbyterian and then began his long tenure as pastor of the daughter congregation. Hoge is remembered as a minister and evangelist; as a spokesman for the South; as an editor--Watchman of the South, The Central Presbyterian, Southern Eclectic -- as an educator; and as one of "The South's most brilliant exemplars of the preaching art."

Hoge was one of the great public orators of the day. He spoke for the community as it began new projects or honored dead heroes. When it came time, thousands of Richmonders: white and black, rich and poor, men of varied creeds and men of none, came forward to render first honor then homage to him. In 1895, on the occasion of Hoge's fiftieth year as a pastor, a great public reception was held. Four years later, the city mourned his passing.

Richmond's Second Presbyterian Church has become, as its historian has styled it, a "Downtown Church." Although founded to serve a specific residential area of the city, its interests were cosmopolitan from the first. The imprint of its great pastor is everywhere evident. The theologically conservative minister and congregation served the spiritual and mundane needs of people throughout the city.

Although Richmond has continued its westward growth, and the area about Fifth and Main is no longer residential, Second Presbyterian remains at the same location. The church continues, as it has done from the first, to serve a large area of the city.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

The Making of a Downtown Church, The History of the Second Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia, 1845-1945, By Wyndham B. Blanton

Moses Drury Hoge: Life and Letters, by Peyton H. Hoge

Presbyterians in the South, Volume One: 1607-1861, Ernest Trice Thompson

**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°	32'	26"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	77°	26'	24"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

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

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
H. Peter Pudner and Elizabeth Cheek

ORGANIZATION: Historic Landmarks Commission      DATE: July 23, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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: James W. Moody, Jr., Director  
Title: Va. Historic Landmarks Commission  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
 Richmond, Va. 1964

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
 latitude 37°32'26"  
 longitude 77°26'24"

REWRY'S BLUFF) 785  
 5558 IV NW

SCALE 1:24000



77° 25'

37° 30'