

VLR-6/18/74 NRHP 10/15/74

124-67

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Roanoke County
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE:

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries . complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Salem Presbyterian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Main Street and Market Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Salem

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Roanoke CODE: 161

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Salem Presbyterian Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Main Street and Market Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Salem

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Roanoke County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Salem

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D. C.

CODE:
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Roanoke

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: _____

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

The Salem Presbyterian Church is a handsomely detailed and well proportioned Greek Revival temple-form structure fronted by a slightly projecting Ionic portico in antis. The original portion of the building measures 40' X 80' and the deep red brickwork is laid in five-course common bond with Flemish variation. The bays of both the front and sides are framed by paneled Doric pilasters which support a deep Ionic entablature surrounding the building. The tall windows of both the front and sides are hung with two sets of double-hung sash with each sash containing ten lights. The windows are surrounded by symmetrical molded trim with turned corner blocks. Above each window is a wide lintel with Greek fret motifs in the style of Asher Benjamin.

The church's pedimented gable end facade is interrupted by a belfry set on the projecting portico. The belfry has a paneled base with scrolled consoles at each side. The middle portion of the belfry is square and has coupled Doric pilasters framing a single louvred opening on each face. A spire topped by a copper ball originally rose from this center section but it was removed in 1885-6 and replaced by a mansard roof. The mansard roof was removed in 1928 and replaced by the present octagonal domed lantern. Although more Georgian than Greek Revival, the lantern blends well with the original architecture.

The church is entered through a handsome frontispiece which has details based on plates in Owen Biddle's Young Carpenter's Assistant. Its double doors are framed with paneled architrave trim and long ridged panels. The doors are set between paneled Doric pilasters supporting a Doric entablature. Set on the entablature is a scrolled blocking course. Lancet panels are at either end of the blocking course while in the center is a shell motif.

The interior originally had a slave gallery around three sides, but the side portions were removed after the Civil War. Also the high pulpit was lowered and the church lengthened about twenty feet at the pulpit end. In 1870 a chapel building was erected to the west of the church and was used for Bible classes and other meetings. The chapel was taken down in 1914, and some of its bricks were used to build the Sunday school addition on the rear of the church. This addition took the form of pedimented transepts, and employed architectural motifs found in the original portion. Further additions were made to the rear in 1856.

The church is set on a prominent intersection on Salem's Main Street, and is an important architectural landmark for the downtown section. The simple churchyard is planted with evergreen shrubbery and shade trees. A simple iron fence surrounds the yard.

C.L.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1851-1852**

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/ etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | XXXXXX | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-
itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Salem Presbyterian Church stands as one of the Roanoke Valley's most beautiful examples of Greek Revival architecture, and is a principal landmark of downtown Salem. The handsomely detailed building demonstrates an unexpectedly self-assured handling of Greek architectural elements combined with a well-balanced proportional system. The master builder has not been determined but it seems likely that it was Benjamin Deyerle who built many of the finer Greek Revival plantation houses in the area. The church's woodwork is attributed to Gustavia D. Sedon, a well-known Roanoke County carpenter. Most of the architectural details are based on plates in ante-bellum builders' handbooks such as those of Asher Benjamin and Owen Biddle.

The Presbyterians organized in Salem in 1831. The local congregation outgrew their original church and began construction of the present building in 1851. Dedication services for the new building were held August 8, 1852. The church was built primarily with slave labor, and its bricks were burnt on the site. Its approximate cost was \$4,500.00, and the entire amount was paid before the dedication service. The building continues to function as the city's chief Presbyterian church.

C.L.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Couper, William. History of the Shenandoah Valley, Vol. II (N. Y., 1952).
Roanoke Architecture, unpublished catalogue of an architectural exhibit held in 1969, in archives of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.
 "Salem and the Salem Presbyterian Church," unpublished ms. by Cathy Tinaglia in archives of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37° 17' 35"	80° 03' 26"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: June, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title _____

Date JUN 18 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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