



=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
\_\_\_ public-local
\_\_\_ public-State
\_\_\_ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
\_\_\_ district
\_\_\_ site
\_\_\_ structure
\_\_\_ object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows include buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_0\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: Religious facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION FUNERARY Sub: Religious facility Cemetery

7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Late Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
roof METAL: tin
other WOOD

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
-x C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- x A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1853-1916

Significant Dates 1853
1881

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

- Primary Location of Additional Data
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
-x Other
Name of repository: Immanuel Episcopal Church

=====  
10. Geographical Data  
=====

Acreage of Property 9.4 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	304440	4168310	2		
3				4		

     See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Ann Lee Dulevitz  
 organization Mary Washington College date November 1992  
 street & number 1720 Beaver Hollow Road telephone 215-539-1734  
 city or town Norristown state PA zip code 19403

=====  
Additional Documentation  
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Trustees of Immanuel Episcopal Church  
 street & number Route 1, Box 268 telephone 804-779-3454  
 city or town Mechanicsville state VA zip code 23111

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Immanuel Episcopal Church  
Hanover County, Virginia

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## SUMMARY

Immanuel Episcopal Church was built in 1853, with additions constructed in 1881, 1916, and 1967.<sup>1</sup> The original form of the structure was rectangular. With the additions the church evolved into a T-plan. This brick masonry structure was not originally built in the Gothic Revival Style but attained it through later additions. There are also two noncontributing buildings on the site—a 1984 parish house and a 1957 rectory.

The church faces northeast and is set back from State Route 606, a rural road. A contributing cemetery surrounds the church on three sides. It includes burials from the period of significance. There are a number of large magnolia and coniferous trees on the property.

## ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The original foundation of the church is brick. Ventilation openings occur every six feet. The brick bond of the foundation is four-course common bond, while the original walls are five-course common bond. The 1881 addition of the front vestibule continues in the same brick bond pattern. The rear addition of a vestry room (1916) has an irregular common bond, varying between four-course and seven-course in both the wall and foundation. The most recent addition of a sacristy behind the vestry room (1967) is laid in five-course common bond with an all stretcher foundation.

Two chimneys laid in Flemish-bond brick and located on either side of the church, sixteen feet from the front corners, are no longer in use.

The doorway of the facade forms a Tudor arch with two four-panelled doors with Gothic detailing. The doorway is topped by a label molding. The only other doorways visible from the exterior are located in the rear additions and consist of square-headed, wooden, six-panelled doors.

The original windows consist of sets of two narrow double-hung sash windows separated by a mullion. They are rectangular with large diamond-shaped panes. All ten original windows have wooden label molds. In the center of the front facade a three-part Palladian-inspired window is situated above the doorway. Both it and a small rose window above are topped by a wooden label mold.

Four windows in the rear addition reflect the Gothic style with diamond-shaped panes. These are double-hung sash windows with no decorative surround. Two small round windows are located on either gable end of the rear addition. In the center of the roof on the rear addition is a modern skylight. This was installed to allow light to reach the stained-glass window in the chancel, which was blocked from the light when the most recent addition was made.

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National Park Service

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Immanuel Episcopal Church  
Hanover County, Virginia

The gable roof of the rear addition is covered with standing-seam metal. The structural system consists of common rafters connected with collar beams. Attached to every other collar beam is a wide but thin board extending from the ridge to the joist, in imitation of a king-post roof structure. The 1881 front addition has a stepped-parapet gable roof from which rise four pinnacles above four brick pilasters. A cross surmounts the ridge of the central front gable which is adorned with decorative vergeboards. The principal facade is the only one with this degree of ornamentation.

The interior of the church is spare, without much ornamentation. The main entrance leads into the 1881 vestibule addition. Two windows on the wall of the vestibule flanking the entrance are identical to the church's original windows. The floor of the vestibule, as with the rest of the building, features tongue-in-groove-laid wooden boards.

As one enters the sanctuary, a stairway rising to the left leads to a gallery that extends the width of the church. Original pine pews flank the central aisle. A choir box is located to the right and is surrounded by a low partition. A large pointed arch divides the nave from the chancel and a pointed-arched stained-glass window, installed in 1881, lights the chancel.

Flanking the chancel area are doors that lead to the more recent vestry room and sacristy additions. Both doors feature stained-glass panels and have twin rectangular stained-glass windows above them. These windows were installed in 1881 and are only visible from the interior.

The pointed arch dividing the nave from the chancel and the stained-glass windows are the only obvious decorative features of the church interior. The original windows feature clear glass. The original window and door openings, as well as those in the vestibule, are set flush with the exterior walls and feature interior reveals angled at 120 degrees. All the interior walls are plastered.

The additions also have sparse ornamentation. While the door leading from the altar to the 1916 vestry room addition is a six-panelled wooden door, the remaining three doors in the additions are all flush modern doors.

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Immanuel Episcopal Church  
Hanover County, Virginia

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Immanuel Episcopal Church is located in the community of Old Church in Hanover County, Virginia. This simple church, built in 1853 with subsequent 1881 and 1916 additions, represents the revival of the Gothic style in America, although not originally built in this style. It is considered to be the best example of Gothic Revival architecture in Hanover County.<sup>2</sup> Immanuel Episcopal Church also represents the revitalization of the Episcopal denomination in the United States.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of Immanuel Episcopal Church precedes its construction date of 1853.<sup>3</sup> The original church in this area of present-day Hanover County was built in 1684 on the Pamunkey River. It was considered part of St. Peter's Parish. When this parish was divided in 1704 the western portion became St. Paul's Parish. In 1718 a wooden structure was built in this new parish and served to accommodate the Anglican congregation. It became known as Old Church.

After the Revolutionary War there was a decline in the number of Episcopalians, due to its association with England and the disestablishment of the church. By 1853, the old wooden structure had fallen into disrepair, reflecting this decline. George Washington Bassett, a grand-nephew of Martha Custis Washington, was distressed at the condition of the worship facilities. He donated \$1,000 for a new church, matching the parish donation. With this money a new church was built, named Immanuel Episcopal Church.<sup>4</sup>

This new church represents both the physical rebuilding of the church and the renewal of the Episcopalian denomination in Virginia. A reformation within the church caused it to grow once again.<sup>5</sup>

Immanuel Episcopal Church was originally built as a simple brick structure, rectangular in shape. The rector described it as "a neat and commodious" structure. At the time of its consecration in 1854, the church had no outstanding Gothic qualities.<sup>6</sup> A church member named Edmund Ruffin, renowned for agricultural innovation, donated a new melodeon. He later acquired notoriety for allegedly firing one of the first shots at Fort Sumter, thus beginning the Civil War. The church remained intact throughout the Civil War, despite a great deal of military activity in the area.

In 1879, permission was given to the Ladies and Friends of the Church to use funds they had acquired to alter the church. Their original proposal was to add a vestibule and a recessed chancel. By 1881 the additions were complete.<sup>7</sup> These additions gave the plain rectangular church a decidedly Gothic aspect. The vestibule gave the church the more vertical appearance that is associated with Gothic architecture. Other Gothic detailing on the vestibule includes decorative vergeboards, a Palladian-like window, a rose window, and a Tudor arch above the front entrance. The recessed chancel is divided from the nave by a pointed arch. Other

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additions made at the same time, though not originally proposed, were three stained-glass windows in the south elevation of the church. The most striking window is in the center of the rear chancel wall. The label molding topping the bays of the church were added after its original construction, again to enhance the Gothic style. These additions transformed a rural brick of rectangular form into an outstanding example of Gothic Revival architecture.

Later additions would transform the church into a T-plan structure. These additions were made at the south end of the church and are sensitive to the Gothic Revival style, but are not significant in their own right.

**ENDNOTES**

<sup>1</sup>Immanuel Episcopal Church Records, Immanuel Episcopal Church, Hanover County, Virginia.

<sup>2</sup>*Survey of Historic Resources Hanover County, Virginia*, (Charlottesville: Land and Community Associates, 1992), 68.

<sup>3</sup>*Journal of the Fifty-Eighth Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia*, (Philadelphia: T. K. and P. G. Collins, Printers, 1853), 49.

<sup>4</sup>All the information was obtained from the Immanuel Episcopal Church Records, Immanuel Episcopal Church, Hanover County, Virginia.

<sup>5</sup>Mills Lane, *The Architecture of the Old South, Virginia*, (Savannah: Beehive Press, 1987), 205.

<sup>6</sup>*Journal of the Fifty-Ninth Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia*, (Richmond: C. H. Wynne, Printer, 1854), 27.

<sup>7</sup>Immanuel Episcopal Church Records, Immanuel Episcopal Church, Hanover County, Virginia

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**Immanuel Episcopal Church  
Hanover County, Virginia**

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**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hanover County Deed Books. Located in Hanover County Courthouse, Hanover County, Virginia.

Hanover County Land Tax Records. Located in Hanover County Courthouse, Hanover County, Virginia.

Hanover County Land Tax Maps. Located in Hanover County Courthouse, Hanover County, Virginia.

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Hanover County, Virginia**

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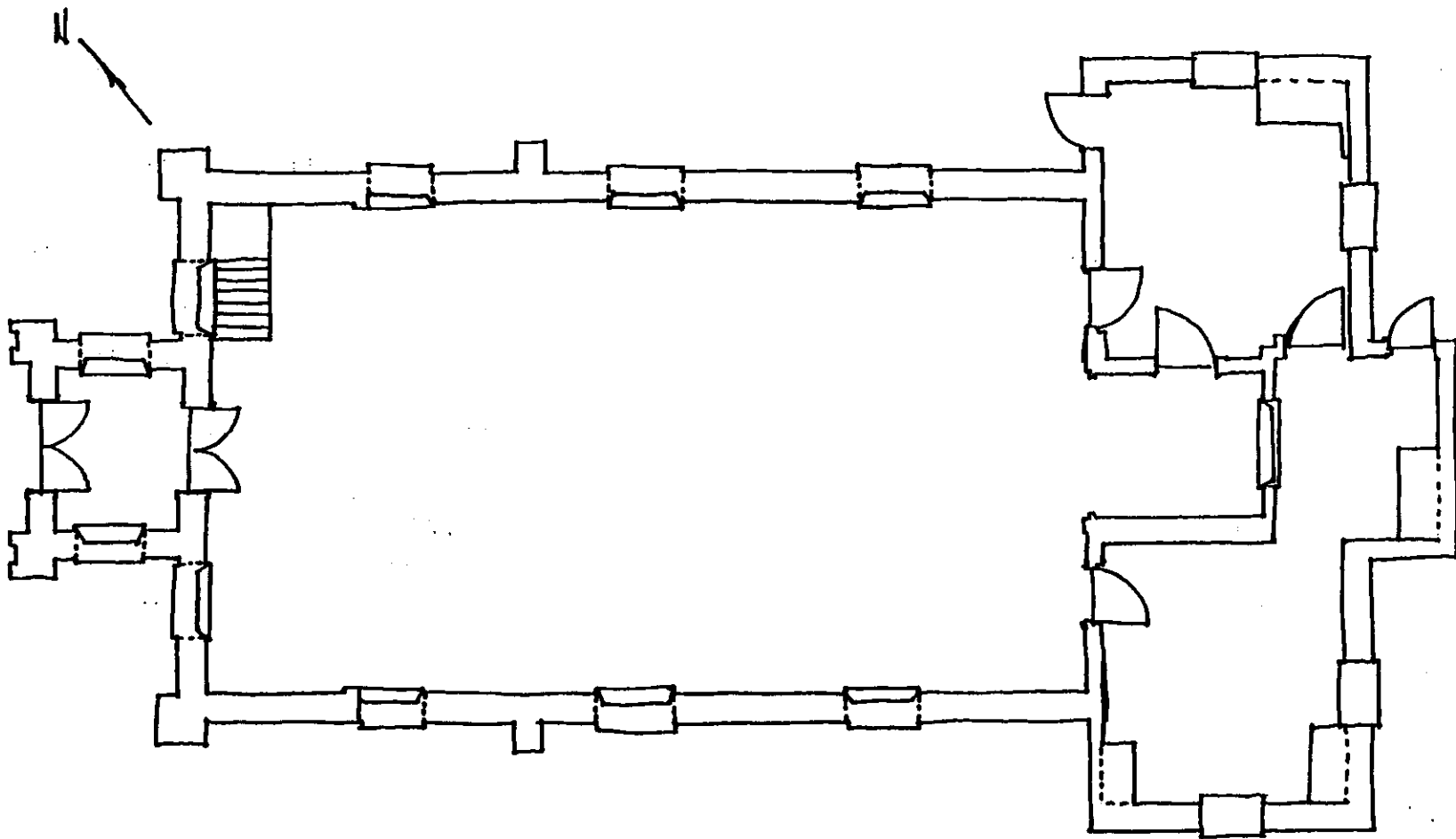
**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Section 85, Parcel 83 on the Hanover County Land Tax Map.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes the church as well as the two nearby noncontributing buildings—the rectory and the parish house. The boundaries correspond closely to the original boundaries recorded in a brief description in the processioners book. The nominated property does not include adjoining parcels now owned by the Trustees of the church as they were not historically associated with the church, coming into church ownership after the end of the period of significance.

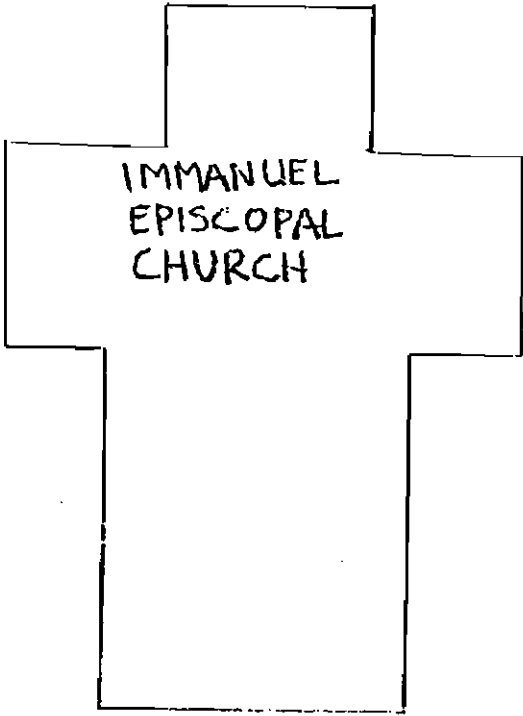


IMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
HANOVER COUNTY, VA

NO SCALE

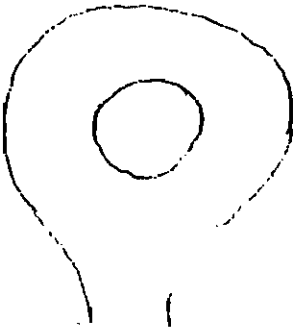
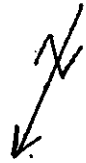
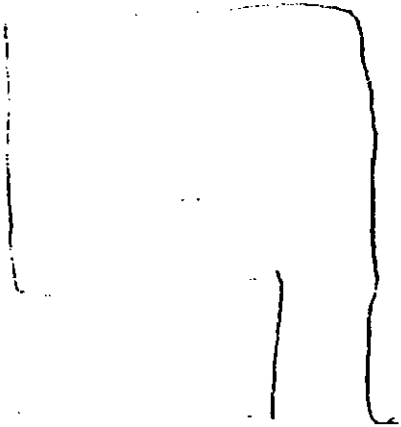
PARISH  
HOUSE

GRAVEYARD



GRAVEYARD

RECTORY



ROUTE 606



