

Self copy

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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 St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

St. Thomas' Church (Preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 119 Caroline Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY-TOWN

Orange

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

VICINITY OF

CODE

22960

COUNTY

Orange

CODE

137

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, c/o Mr. Lyne M. Shackelford

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 65

CITY-TOWN

Orange

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 22960

5 LOCATION OF =GAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

Orange County Courthouse

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court: of Orange County

STREET & NUMBER

CITY-TOWN

Orange

STATE

Virginia 22960

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) See continuation sheet #1

TITLE (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1969

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY-TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

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"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church consists of the church building proper, the parish hall, and the rector's study with connecting cloister. The present church building proper is rectangular in shape, one story in height (approximately 25 feet from the ground to the eaves), approximately 40 feet in width and 105 feet in length. The outline of the original church--the front and main part of the building--is readily discernible. It is of brick construction; the original is laid in Flemish bond and the addition to the rear is largely in American bond. Extending from the southeast rear corner of the church building is the parish hall and from the northeast rear corner, the cloister leading to the rector's study. The facade has a recessed portico with two Doric columns flanked by two Doric pilasters, the latter of which are repeated at the front corners of the building. Within the portico, and above the main door, is a circular rose window. Below the plain cornice, across the facade, and along the sides of the church are a frieze and architrave, likewise plain. The facade is capped by a triangular pediment with a louvered fan window. There is one window on either side of the portico with muntins and plain glass and five windows along both sides of the building, each with stained glass. All the windows have Gothic, or pointed, arches. Rising from the gable roof above the facade is a tower, composed of a base of three square wooden sections (the upper two paneled) of diminishing size and an octagonal cupola. The cupola has a dentil cornice, buttressed base, pilasters, louvered openings, and a ribbed dome surmounted by a cross, both sheathed in copper.

Within the church, the pews are divided by a center aisle and flanked by side aisles along the walls. The opening into the chancel is flanked by Doric columns, and at the back of the chancel is a three-part stained-glass window. The walls of the nave have a dentil molding.

The original church building was begun in 1833 and completed in 1834 at a cost of \$3,500. With some alterations, it exists today as the front and main part of the present structure. Rectangular in shape and one story in height, it was approximately 40 feet in width and 65 feet in length. Except for the fact that the windows were probably rectangular rather than with pointed arches (there is some structural evidence of this) and with clear, not stained, glass, the exterior of the original was generally the same as at present. According to Bishop William Meade, "In 1853. . . the church edifice was enlarged, and at the same time both the exterior and interior were much improved." That year also Miss Georgiana Cave of Montebello, Orange County, spoke of the building being enlarged and of an organ for the church. It is probable that the enlargement included the extension of the chancel and a small increase in the size of the nave. (A photograph of the exterior of the church dated circa 1908 shows the addition). The windows also may have been altered at this time to the Gothic form. The interior improvements referred to quite possibly included the large central Gothic arch over the entrance to the chancel and the similar but smaller arches flanking and adjoining it, as an interior photograph of the same vintage as the aforementioned photograph attests. Certainly included among the improvements was the installation of the first church organ.

There was a gallery, perhaps incorporated in the initial construction, which extended across the building at the rear of the pews and was supported by wooden columns. It was reached by stairs located in the vestibules on either side of the front door.

In 1912 the small addition to the rear was extended, and, thus enlarged, became the parish hall. In 1928 the roof of the addition was raised. In that year also the new, and present, parish hall was constructed, extending out from the southeast (See continuation sheet #1)

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 checked="" 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 Completed 1834; altered 1853, 1912, 1928 & 1975

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Based on T. Jefferson's plans for Christ Church, Charlottesville; possibly built by William B. Phillips

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church is the second, and present, church of the parish of that name. St. Thomas' Parish was formed in 1740. The first parish church, located on the Taylor property, long known as Meadowfarm, was called the Middle or Brick Church. The ancient communion plate of that Anglican, or Established, Church--a silver chalice and paten dating from 1766-1767 and engraved with the name of the parish--are in the possession of St. Thomas' Church. After demolition of the Middle Church, as a result of the confiscation of church and glebe property, and a period of years when Episcopalian communicants worshipped informally in various locations, the main part of the present St. Thomas' Church was built on land purchased by the vestry in 1833. The building was completed the following year.

From a historical standpoint, St. Thomas' served during the Civil War as a hospital following the battles at Cedar Mountain, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House. At one point it was used as a shelter for refugees from Fredericksburg when that town was badly damaged by fighting. During the winter of 1863-64 when the Army of Northern Virginia held defensive positions along the Rapidan River in Orange County, General Robert E. Lee and other officers and men worshipped at St. Thomas'; General Lee's pew is preserved. But it is from an architectural standpoint that St. Thomas' is of particular importance.

The original section of St. Thomas' follows closely the design of old Christ Church in Charlottesville, which was demolished in 1895. Christ Church was erected in 1824 from plans furnished by Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson's plan, it has been said, was based on that of a church near his home while in Paris, Chalgrin's St. Philippe du Roule. Christ Church was built by William B. Phillips, whom Jefferson had secured to do brick work at the University of Virginia. As a master builder, Phillips carried out the Jeffersonian style in work done in Albemarle and neighboring counties. During the 1820s and 1830s he was engaged in building in the Orange area; he built the Madison County Courthouse in the late 1820s and a jail in Orange in the mid 1830s, among other structures. Because of the careful use of classical details, a hallmark of Phillips' work, it seems probable that he built St. Thomas' in 1833-1834 as well. If this was so, it would tend to explain why that church follows so closely the design of Christ Church, which Phillips had done earlier.

So far as is presently known, Jefferson provided plans for only one church building--old Christ Church. That no longer stands. Therefore, St. Thomas' Episcopal Church--patterned closely on Christ Church and perhaps built by the same master builder--uniquely significant in architectural history as being presumably the only surviving building which reflects Thomas Jefferson's ideas on church architecture.

WHBT

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Printed Books and Manuscripts

Cave, Miss Georgiana. Letter to _____, October 10, 1853. Copy in possession of Lyne M. Shackelford, Senior Warden, St. Thomas' Church.
 Grayson, Jennie Thornley. "Old Christ Church," Magazine of Albemarle County History, vol. 8, 1947-48.
 See continuation sheet #1

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	7,5,2,6,2,0	4,2,3,6,5,9,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

February 1976

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3143

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

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 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

FEB 17 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET St. Thomas' Church ITEM NUMBER 6,7,9 PAGE 1

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968 X(State)
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Richmond, Virginia

7. Description

corner of the church. Considerable alterations to the interior at that time included removal of the gallery and the pointed arches over and flanking the chancel entrance and replacing the center arch with a rectangular opening flanked by Doric columns. The chancel was likewise extended still further. Finally in 1975 the rector's study was built, connected to the church building by a cloister. The stained-glass windows were added at various times since 1885; some of the stained glass was furnished by Tiffany.

WHBT

9. Major Bibliographical References

Guinness, Desmond, and Sadler, Julius Trousdale, Jr. Mr. Jefferson Architect. New York: The Viking Press, 1973.

Orange County Records: Deed Book 34, p. 444;
Deed Book 138, p. 212; plat p. 214;
Deed Book 218, p. 359;
Deed Book 279, p. 651; plat p. 653.

Rawlings, Mary. The Albemarle of Other Days. Charlottesville, Va.: The Michie Company, 1925.

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church. Minutes of the Vestry, 1852-1875, 1865, 1872, 1880-1909. Vestry, St. Thomas' Church; placed on deposit in the Orange County Public Library, Orange, Virginia.

Warren, H. C. Bi-Centennial St. Thomas' Parish and Centennial St. Thomas' Church, October 20-21, 1933: Historical Notes. Orange, Virginia, 1933.

Newspapers:

The Observer, Orange, Virginia, May 17, 1895.

Interviews:

Barton, Reverend George, Rector, St. Thomas' Church, December 11, 1975.

Green, R. Duff, member of vestry, St. Thomas' Church, December 11, 1975.

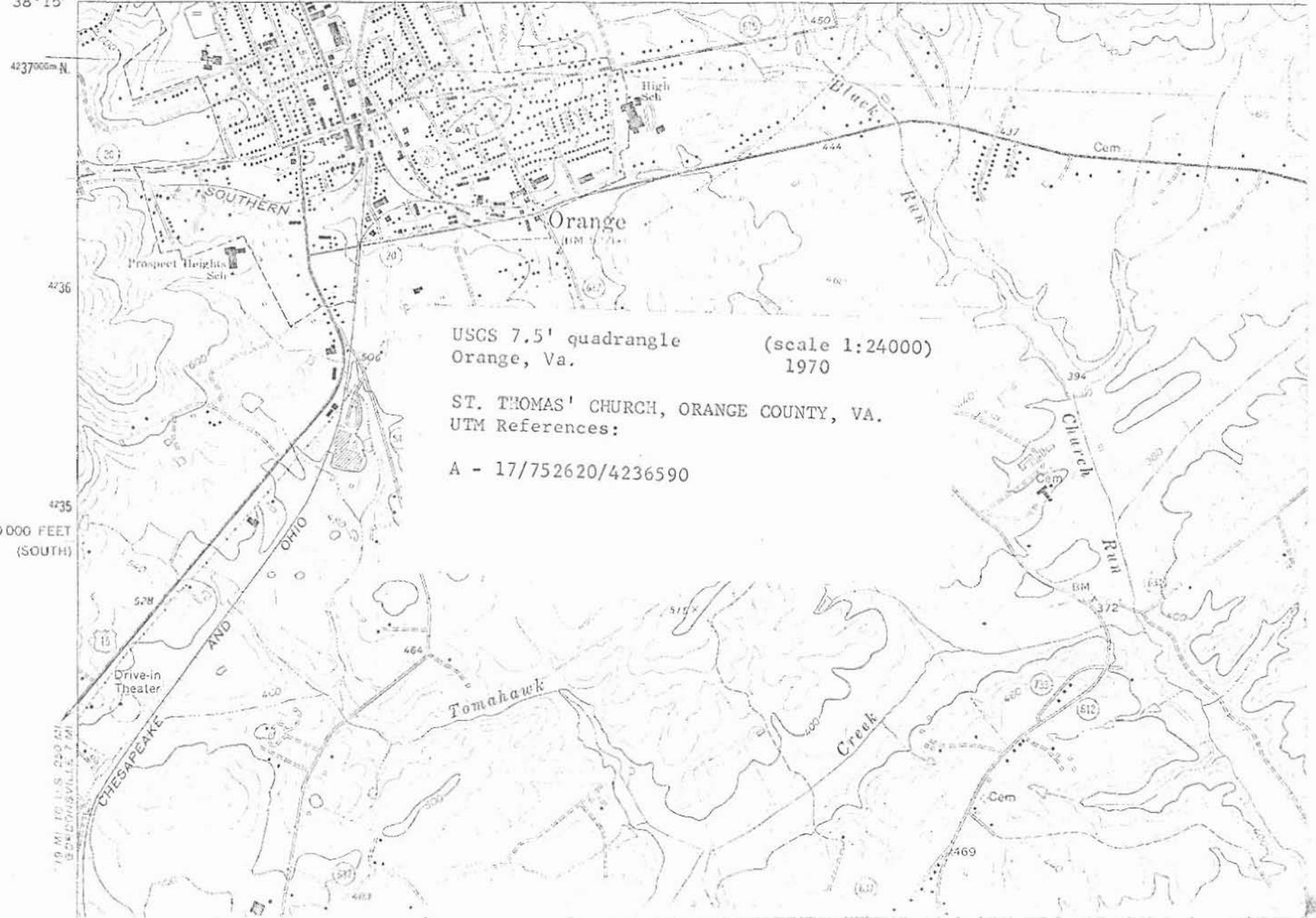
Shackelford, Lyne M., Senior Warden, St. Thomas' Church, December 11, 1975, and other occasions; Mr. Shackelford also courteously supplied extensive notes on the history of the church.

5.160 (SW MILLS)
(MADISON MILLS)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH
DIVISION OF MINES
JAMES L. CALVER,
5386
(RAP)

78°07'30" 752000m E 754 755 5' : 2 120 000 FEET (SOUTH)



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale 1:24000)
Orange, Va. 1970

ST. THOMAS' CHURCH, ORANGE COUNTY, VA.
UTM References:

A - 17/752620/4236590

4236
4235
600 000 FEET
(SOUTH)

19 MI. TO U.S. 250 MI.
BONNERSVILLE, 7 MI.