

VLR: 6-2-70
NRHP: 9-15-70

127-192

Form 10-300
July 1969

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**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:
St. John's Church Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Church Hill

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
See continuation sheet.

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	45	(in cit.)	760

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple ownership, public and private

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
10th and Broad Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The St. John's Church Historic District contains the oldest frame structure as well as some of the oldest brick houses in Richmond. The land generally bounded by 22nd Street on the west, Marshall Street on the north, East Franklin Street on the south, and 29th Street on the east, is known as Church Hill, but the small neighborhood surrounding the park on the eastern end is sometimes referred to as Libby Hill. The area south and west of Broad and 25th Streets is within the original grid plan of the town of Richmond, laid out by William Byrd in 1737. The steep slopes to the south, east and west form the natural boundaries of Church Hill, but on the north the flat plain continues, becoming Union Hill.

The existing architecture in the St. John's Church Historic District is almost exclusively of the "side hall" townhouse plan, the larger houses having disappeared. Those buildings in the block bounded by East Broad, East Grace, 23rd and 24th Streets, known as the Carrington block, provide examples of most styles represented within the historic district, and, indeed, the entire city. The pre-1816 brick houses at 2302 (Hilary Baker House), and 2306 (Ann Adams Carrington House) East Grace Street, display Flemish bond brickwork on the front facades, brick corbeled cornices and plaster flat arches typical of the Federal period; the bow projection and the three-sectioned window on the Carrington House are reminiscent of larger houses that traditionally have been attributed to Robert Mills, on Capitol Hill, further west. The city's oldest existing row house, 2307-09-11 East Broad Street, is Carrington Row, built in 1818. Its Neo-Classical feeling is created by the stuccoed brick facade with its pilaster motif and recessed panels and arches. The Greek Revival Hardgrove House, 2300 East Franklin Street, was built in 1849; its three-story townhouse facade is embellished with a typical Greek Doric porch, granite porch steps and window lintels set on a facade of mechanically-bonded brick veneer. The post-War, two-story row between and including 2308 and 2316 East Grace Street has full-length porches in both iron and wood, presenting the range of decorative detailing possible in the two materials. The Carrington block has the most intensive contrasts in styles of the entire area and has received the most attention from Historic Richmond Foundation.

Other important areas within the district include the 2600 block of East Franklin Street, where Greek Revival houses of the 1840's and '50's predominate. Three brick buildings, formerly located on 2nd and 3rd Streets and slated for demolition, were dismantled and rebuilt on Church Hill, in the 2600 block of East Franklin Street. Notable individual buildings in the district are the brick Adams Double House (1809-10), 2501-03 East Grace Street; the frame John Morris Cottages (1830, 1835, respectively), 2500 East Grace Street and 207 North 25th Street; the Gentry-Stokes-Crew House (1839), 2718 East Franklin Street; and the deteriorating but still impressive White-Taylor House (1839), 2717 East Grace Street.

These and other valuable structures are scattered among less imposing houses which nonetheless are similar in materials, scale, color and style. Street grading has exaggerated the existing slopes in many cases,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATES, TIME PERIODS, and EVENTS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the first building on Church Hill was the present transept of St. John's Church, that building did not give its name to the neighborhood that slowly grew up around it until the nineteenth century. The area was first known as Indian Hill and later Richmond Hill. The Libby Hill section owes its name to Luther Libby, whose house at 1 North 29th Street faced the present park; his warehouse, to the south along the river, at the corner of 20th and East Cary Streets, became the well-known Libby Prison of Civil War days.

Settlement around St. John's Church was extremely slow, due to difficulty in scaling the ungraded slopes surrounding the hill in the early days, and to the natural growth of the city to the west. Most of the residents were merchants whose stores and factories were conveniently located in Shockoe Valley below, or along the James River. The 1861 Turpin and Yarbrough Houses at 2209 and 2215 East Broad Street, and the 1849 Hardgrove House at 2300 East Grace Street were owned by tobacco manufactures. Yarbrough's factory still stands at the southwest corner of 25th and East Franklin Streets, within the borders of the District. Historically, Church Hill's most significant structure is St. John's Church, the site for the Virginia Convention of 1775, where Patrick Henry delivered his "Liberty or Death" speech. The burial ground surrounding the church was the main graveyard in Richmond until the opening of Shockoe Cemetery in 1825.

By the 1890's and early-1900's, the pull westward was too strong for many of the residents of Church Hill, and they left their homes for more fashionable areas. The neighborhood deteriorated for fifty years until preservation-minded citizens began to look toward revitalization of Church Hill. In 1956, Historic Richmond Foundation was established, and, as a result of its efforts, the city passed an Ordinance in 1957 establishing the St. John's Church Historic District. This zone has been expanded twice since then.

One of the oldest neighborhoods in Richmond, Church Hill is a fascinating textbook of nineteenth-century architectural styles. Aside from the dominant frame mass of St. John's Church at the peak of the hill, the design elements range from the compact proportions of a brick Federalist house to the intricate iron tracery of late-nineteenth century Victorian porches. Although most blocks have been filled in completely by townhouses, dramatic vistas remain across rooftops with the downtown skyline as a

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hill, Tucker Herrin, Church Hill Neighborhood, 1741-1861. Master's thesis, University of Virginia, 1967.
 Mordecai, Samuel, Richmond in By-Gone Days. Richmond: 1946 (republished from 2nd edition of 1860).
 Scott, Mary Wingfield, Houses of Old Richmond. Richmond: 1941.
 Scott, Mary Wingfield, Old Richmond Neighborhoods. Richmond: 1950.

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° 32' 02"	77° 25' 27"		° . .	° . .	
NE	37° 32' 02"	77° 24' 43"				
SE	37° 31' 30"	77° 24' 43"				
SW	37° 31' 30"	77° 25' 27"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 240 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:
 Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE: March 9, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond, Virginia

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 45

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 _____

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman

Title Virginia 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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
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Richmond (in cit.)	
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7. and has created a setting that enhances the visual impact of rows of houses, especially along North 25th Street and the 2200 block of East Broad Street. The much-repaired, high brick retaining walls around St. John's Church, granite curbing, brick sidewalks and cobblestone paving on some side streets enhance the nineteenth-century atmosphere. Open spaces exist in the burial grounds surrounding St. John's Church, the park in Libby Hill, the Mews created along the alley in the Carrington Block, and the open vista of the Richmond skyline seen from Philip Johnson's new WRVA Radio Station just beyond the western border of the Historic District. The Patrick Henry Park has replaced a row of commercial structures that once faced St. John's Church in the 2400 block of East Broad Street, while a one-story brick fire station stands on the site of residential structures at the northwest corner of 24th and East Broad Streets.

8. backdrop to the western blocks of the old neighborhood.

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1957 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C. Code: 08

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #127-192
1970 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia Code: 45

2. The St. John's Church District shall consist of the area beginning at the point of intersection with the east line of Twenty-second Street of the north line of the alley between Broad Street and Marshall Street thence extending along the north line of the alley to the west line of Twenty-third Street, thence extending along the west line of Twenty-third Street to the south line of Marshall Street, thence extending along the south line of Marshall Street to the west line of Twenty-fifth Street, thence extending along the west line of Twenty-fifth Street to a point midway between Broad Street and Marshall Street, thence extending along a line parallel with Broad Street to the west line of 32nd Street at the intersection with the south line of the alley between Marshall Street and Broad Street, thence southwestwardly along the west line of 32nd Street to the north line of Grace Street, thence in a southeasterly direction along the west edge of the roadway in Chimborazo Park a distance of 400 feet more or less, thence in a southwesterly direction a distance of 700 feet more or less to the intersection of the south line of Libby Terrace and the west line of Thirty-First Street, thence along Thirty-First Street in a southerly direction to the north line of Williamsburg Avenue, thence in a westerly direction along the north line of Williamsburg Avenue. to an

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2. intersection with Main Street, thence in a northwesterly direction along Main Street to a point approximately 140 feet east of Twenty-seventh Street, thence northwardly along a line parallel to Twenty-Seventh Street to a point midway between Franklin Street and Main Street, thence extending along a line parallel with the south line of Franklin Street to the east line of Twenty-second Street, thence extending along the east line of Twenty-second Street to the point of beginning.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

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1. NAME
COMMON: St. John's Church Historic District
AND/OR HISTORIC: Church Hill

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
See continuation sheet.
CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond
STATE: Virginia CODE 45 COUNTY: (in cit.) CODE 760

3. MAP REFERENCE
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. map 7.5', quadrangle Richmond, Va.
SCALE: 1:24000
DATE: 1964

4. REQUIREMENTS
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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COUNTY Richmond (in cit.)	
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Richmond
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3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTOGRAPHER: Virginia State Library
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia State Library
Richmond, Virginia

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View of 2300 Block, E. Grace Street looking east.

