

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	North Carolina
COUNTY:	Beaufort
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
St. Thomas Episcopal Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Craven Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Bath

STATE North Carolina	CODE 27	COUNTY: Beaufort	CODE 013
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 type="checkbox"/> Park <input 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:  
Wardens of St. Thomas Parish

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Craven Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Bath

STATE: North Carolina	CODE 27808	CODE 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Beaufort County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Second and Market Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

ADDRESS:  
Phil. Capital and Independence Avenue, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: D.C.	CODE 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Beaufort

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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

St. Thomas Episcopal Church is a simple brick building in Flemish bond with glazed headers, measuring approximately thirty by fifty-two feet. It appears to be a rectangle in plan but is actually several feet out of square.

The gables of the east and west ends have been rebuilt. The western end features the main doorway surmounted by a simple jack arch. Above this is an odd segmental band of moulded brick. The original purpose of this band is unknown; it may have framed a lunette or formed a part of a primitive pediment like the triangular one on St. Luke's Church, Smithfield, Virginia. There are two small rectangular windows in the gable.

The north and south sides are each four bays long. All bays are marked by large rectangular windows except the third bay from the west on the south side which is a door. The east wall has a single rectangular window on either side of the altar. The interior arrangement is probably original though most of the fabric is not. There is a very narrow gallery over the west entrance. It is reached by a stair in the northwest corner.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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)

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   | <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 type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                      |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Thomas Parish was formed by the first Vestry Act of 1701, but was slow to take physical shape. In 1705 when the Town of Bath was incorporated, the act called for "portions of Land to be laid out and preserved for a church," and further "that a church for the Parish of St. Thomas shall be built." Reverend William Gordon visited the area in 1709 noting, "Here is no church, though they have begun to build a town called Bath. It consists of about twelve houses, being the only town in the whole province." By 1711, Anglican services were being held at "one Major Gale's. . .at whose house the people met each Sunday, where a young gentleman, a lawyer, was appointed to read prayers and a sermon, they having no minister."

Finally in 1734 the Reverend John Garzia wrote to the Secretary of the S.P.G. that "We are now building at our proper Cost a Small Church (being the only one in the whole province)." But, at the same time he noted, "Our abilities will be far short of completing and adorning the same. . . ." Through an error, construction was begun, not on the lot allocated to the church, but in the middle of Craven Street, adjoining the church property.

By 1739 the building was apparently near completion for evangelist George Whitefield preached to "an extraordinary congregation . . . at church." In 1762 Reverend Alexander Stewart wrote from Bath that the "Parishioners have . . . finished their Church in the best manner they are able. . . ."

After the Revolutionary War the structure fell into a state of disrepair and many exterior and interior alterations were made.

The church in recent years came under the direction of Reverend A.C.D. Noc, who worked continuously to preserve and maintain the church as a historically significant structure.

The St. Thomas Parish Church remains as the earliest extant church built in North Carolina, and has been used continuously for over 230 years for religious services. The building and its setting are among the most picturesque aspects of North Carolina's oldest town.

Beaufort County Records, Beaufort County Courthouse, Washington, North Carolina. Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports).

Beaufort County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports).

Paschal, Herbert R. A History of Colonial Bath. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Company, 1955.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		35 ° 28 ' 26 "	76 ° 48 ' 50 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one-half 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: J. G. Zehmer, Asst. Adm. Research & Restoration; John B. Wells, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION: North Carolina Department of Archives and History DATE: 9/8/70

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

**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: H. G. Jones

Title: Director, North Carolina State Department of Archives and History

Date: September 9, 1970

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

PLAN OF LAND  
STREETS WITHIN CITY LIMITS

OF THE

BATH TOWNSHIP

BEAUFORT COUNTY, N.C.

W.B. DUKE, REG. SURV.

JULY 1, 1901

SCALE, "1"=330'  
OR 5 CHAINS.

TO YATESVILLE

17 MI.

REC. NO. 92

CARTER STREET

N.C. HIGHWAY NO. 52

GRAVEN STREET

St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
Craven Street  
Bath

