

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 68A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for not applicable. For nominations, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Luke's Episcopal Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 219 Chunn's Cove Road N/A not for publication

city or town Asheville N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Buncombe code 021 zip code 28805

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey J. Crow SHPD 8/27/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of action _____

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the
National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the
National Register.

removed from the National
Register.

other (explain): _____

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Buncombe, North Carolina
County and State

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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
	1	sites
		structures
		objects
1	2	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

roof shingle

other brick

concrete

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.
- 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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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

1894

Significant Dates

1894

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Armstrong, E. J.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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
- Other

Name of repository:

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Buncombe, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .5

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1, 7	3, 6, 1, 2, 8, 0	3, 9, 4, 0, 6, 8, 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
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 Carolyn A. Humphries

organization St. Luke's Episcopal Church date March 15, 1997

street & number 450 Crowfields Drive telephone 704-277-8736

city or town Asheville state NC zip code 28803

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Buncombe County, North Carolina

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SETTING:

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, a Gothic Revival style frame church constructed in 1894, sits on the east edge of Chunn's Cove Road in Asheville, NC. It is approached from Chunn's Cove Road by a short concrete walkway. The landscaped lot, which slopes to the east toward Ross Creek, contains the little church and a rectory, which was built in 1954. Flanking the church on its east and south elevations is a cemetery which was opened in 1914. To the north and east of the rectory is a large unpaved parking lot, developed on land received in 1953. The nominated property is the original 1893 section of the present larger tract.

Chunn's Cove, in Asheville, NC, is a narrow valley approximately two miles long, which lies to the east of Town Mountain and about five minutes from the center of downtown Asheville. The cove was first developed in the early nineteenth century, when transportation to Asheville took most of the day as the road wound up and over Beaucatcher Mountain. In 1928 a tunnel was completed through Beaucatcher and in the 1970s a four-lane highway, I-240, was completed through a wide, deep cut in the mountain. Chunn's Cove Road leads from Tunnel Road and under I-240, on the east side of Town Mountain.

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Chunn's Cove Road and Ross Creek run side by side for the length of the cove. To the west of the road are a number of large residential properties and occasional farm and open pastureland. To the east ranch houses front on the road, interspersed with apartment and condominium developments. Native and hybrid rhododendrons line both road and private properties, along with many tall pine and deciduous trees. As Ross Creek nears I-240, it forms the east boundary of St. Luke's property. To the east of Ross Creek, directly facing St. Luke's, is an artificial hill of dirt excavated from the "cut" which allowed I-240 to pass through Beaucatcher Mountain.

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. 1894. Contributing Building

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is a fine, intact example of late Gothic Revival style church building. The one-story frame building, twenty feet by thirty-six feet, has a steeply pitched roof, now covered in asphalt shingles. The gable end of the clapboard-covered building faces west onto Chunn's Cove Road where a projecting vestibule with gable roof and double-leaf, paneled door give entrance. The foundation of the building is uncoursed ashlar block. Windows on the north and south elevations are two over two with colored glass surrounding a clear center. Window surrounds are topped with a triangular frame. Above the exterior vestibule door is a triangular colored glass window. Over the altar at the east end of the building is a handsome stained glass

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window. The window was a gift to the church in 1942 and was originally part of St. Chrystostom's Chapel at Trinity Church, New York City.

At the entrance, the building is sited about two feet above the level of Chunn's Cove Road, but the property slopes sharply to the east. The ashlar foundation becomes a full story at the rear of the building. A window in the basement level on the north elevation has been replaced with a modern, louvered window and the rear entry door has been replaced by a modern, single pane door.

The sanctuary of St. Luke's is rectangular with nave separated from chancel by a wood communion rail. Walls in the sanctuary and the vestibule are plastered above a tongue and groove wainscoting. The ceiling is also narrow tongue and groove. The original oil lamps are in the holders, although the interior is lighted with electric fixtures. Handsome original pine pews with curved armrests stand on each side of the center aisle. Near the double-leaf door leading to the vestibule is a narrow stairway to the basement, which contains several small rooms used for classes and for the Altar Guild.

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St. Luke's Episcopal Church, almost unchanged since its construction, retains a remarkable degree of integrity.

RECTORY. 1954. Non-contributing building

This frame, ranch-style house was contracted to the north of the church building. It is one-story at Chunn's Cove Road and two stories at the rear.

CEMETERY. 1914. Non-contributing site

Although this 1914 cemetery post-dates the 1894 period of significance of St. Luke's Church, it does not detract from its historic significance. The unfenced cemetery lies next to the church on its east and south elevations. The earliest burial in the cemetery dates from 1914. There are many graves with granite markers and a memorial garden for the burial of ashes. The entire site is surrounded by woodland on the south and evergreens on the east. Thomas Owens, who named the church, is buried here. E.J. Armstrong, the builder of St. Luke's Church, is also buried in the cemetery.

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SUMMARY:

St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Chunn's Cove, Asheville, NC, is a small, frame church building constructed in 1894 at the entrance to Chunn's Cove, a narrow wooded mountain valley whose atmosphere is reminiscent of the early years of the twentieth century. The church is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as one of the few remaining examples of the late Gothic Revival Episcopal churches built in western North Carolina after 1850. The unaltered little building retains the steeply-pitched roof, rectangular nave and vernacular window surrounds characteristic of the Gothic Revival idiom introduced into western North Carolina with the construction of the first church for Trinity Parish, Asheville, in 1849-50. That church, designed by Frank Wills of New York at the instigation of Episcopal Bishop Levi Silliman Ives, set the style for Late Gothic Revival churches and chapels for more than fifty years.

St. Luke's Church was designed by E. J. Armstrong, a retired engineer from Waterbury, Connecticut, who settled in Chunn's Cove. Before the construction of the church building in 1894, the congregation met in members' homes in the area. Services were led by the Rector of Trinity Church, Asheville. After the building was completed, the Diocese of Western North Carolina supplied a priest for the congregation until 1972, when the church became a self-

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supporting parish. The congregation of St. Luke's, although small in number, has been continuously active since 1894.

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St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The first Episcopal parish in western North Carolina, Trinity in Asheville, was established in 1847. Its first rector was Dr. Jarvis Buxton, who traveled from Rutherfordton several times a month to hold services in homes in the parish. By 1852 Dr. Buxton had moved to Asheville and in June 1858 conducted his first service in Chunn's Cove in the home of Hosea Lindsey. Dr. Buxton and lay ministers from Trinity, Asheville, conducted weekly services at various homes in Chunn's Cove until 1890. In 1886 a Sunday School was organized at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Thomas Owen, who also held night classes for parishioners who could not read or write. Mr. Owen, an Englishman, worked faithfully to establish an Episcopal church in Chunn's Cove and by 1893 plans were made to build a church building. (The Episcopal Church in Chunn's Cove, St. Luke's Mission, 1954.)

In 1894 a half acre lot on Chunn's Cove Road was purchased from Matthew and Jane Baxter, former slaves of Col. Stephen Lee, early resident of Chunn's Cove and founder of a boys' school which flourished there from 1846 to 1879. (Deed Book 89, pages 256-257) Mr. E.J. Armstrong, a retired engineer of Chunn's Cove, drew plans for the church building and oversaw the construction.

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St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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The building was erected by subscription and with the help of a loan from the Church Building Fund Commission of New York. (The Episcopal Church in Chunn's Cove, St. Luke's Mission, 1954). It was named St. Luke's by Mr. Owen. The new church building was consecrated on July 19, 1895 by Rt. Rev. Joseph Blount Cheshire, Jr., Bishop of North Carolina. The building and property were held by the Diocese of North Carolina until 1972. (Deed Book 1070, page 529)

After its consecration in 1895, St. Luke's was served by a number of priests and vicars, including Rev. James B. Sill, who served from 1937 until 1944. During his ministry he presented and installed the stained glass window over the altar. The window is in memory of his father, the Rev. Thomas Henry Sill and was taken from St. Chrysostem's Chapel of Trinity Church, New York City, where his father was rector.

At the death in 1914 of Thomas Owens, benefactor of St. Luke's, a cemetery was opened on the south and east of the church. Recently a memorial garden has been developed on the south elevation.

In 1953, 1.8 acres of land were deeded to the church by Gertrude Alice Seely Eller, granddaughter of Edwin W. Grove, Asheville developer and benefactor and daughter of Fred

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Seely. (Deed Book 740, page 369) In 1954 a frame rectory was built on the donated land. Recently a parking lot and playground have been created there. St. Luke's little building continues to serve a congregation of about 100 and maintains a presence in the residential neighborhood of Chunn's Cove and East Asheville. Presently the rector is the Rev. Stephen Hines.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT:

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is one of only a few late nineteenth-century Gothic Revival chapels remaining in western North Carolina. The Gothic Revival style of church design was introduced into North Carolina in the 1830s and 1840s and into western North Carolina with the construction of the first church building for Trinity Parish, Asheville, in 1849-50. That early building was designed by Frank Wills of New York, the leading architect for the Ecclesiological Society of New York, the American branch of the Oxford Movement. The Oxford Movement and its North Carolina disciple, Episcopal Bishop Levi Silliman Ives, believed that Gothic was the proper idiom for Christian architecture and called for a return to traditional medieval forms in ritual and design. Bishop Ives was convinced that High Church, medieval-influenced reforms would draw new members to the Episcopal Church in North Carolina. He encouraged organ music, ritual, and

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symbolism, as well as Gothic Revival architecture. (Bishir, North Carolina Architecture, 1990, pp. 234-239)

The early brick Trinity Church building was a typical Gothic Revival Episcopal Church with steep gable roof, pointed arch windows and doubleleafed-arched door at the entrance. A chancel extended from the west gable end. (Carr and Stanard, History of Trinity Episcopal Church, Asheville, 1974) A drawing of the town of Asheville in 1851 shows the contrast between Trinity and the two-story meetinghouse style of the Methodist and Presbyterian congregations nearby on Church Street in Asheville. The Gothic Revival design for Episcopal churches appeared across western North Carolina beginning in 1850, and became popular for many denominations by 1900. Most were constructed of wood and all featured steep-pitched roofs, arched window openings, entrance doors in the front-facing gable and frequently an extended chancel. Today the Church of the Good Shepherd in Cashiers, NR, (1896) is an outstanding and unaltered example. In Buncombe County a few examples remain, notably the stone chapel at Christ School (1906); St. Matthias, Asheville, NR (1894), a more elaborate rendition in brick; Avery Creek Christian Church (1891); Riceville Presbyterian Church (1895) and the former St. James Episcopal Church in Black Mountain. The Church of the Incarnation in Highlands in Macon County, NR (1896) and St. David's Church in Cullowhee in Jackson County remain as good examples.

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St. Luke's Episcopal Church is an unaltered example of the late Gothic Revival chapel in western North Carolina. The gable roof is steeply pitched and the entrance door, double-leafed, is in the front-facing gable. Windows are headed by a vernacular variation of the pointed Gothic arch. The pews face east, conforming to an Ecclesiological Society requirement.

This intact church building, bordered by a small cemetery on its east and south flanks, occupies its original hillside setting. It is a much-admired reminder of the Gothic Revival influence in church architecture in Western North Carolina.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

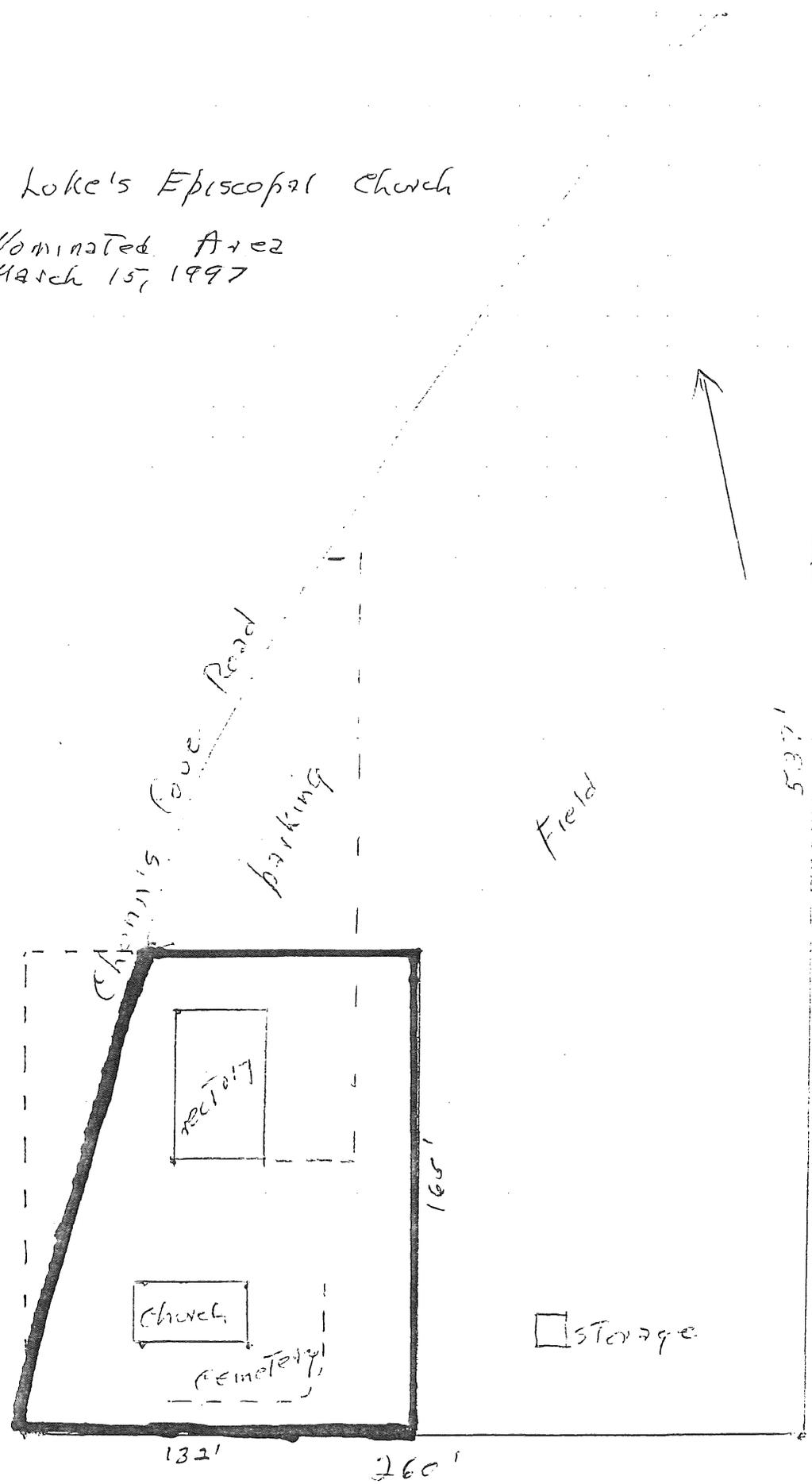
Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated area, approximately one half acre in size, is outlined on map number 9659 (13) of Buncombe County Land Records Department, PIN 9659-13-02-5883.

Boundary Justification: The nominated one-half acre of land was transferred to the trustees of the Diocese of North Carolina on behalf of St. Luke's Church by deed dated June 7, 1894 and found at Deed Book 89, page 256, Buncombe County Register of Deeds. It is the land historically associated with St. Luke's Church.

Sketch Map

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Nominated Area
March 15, 1997



1 square = 10'

■ Nominated area
Deed of June 7, 1894

