

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
St. Philip's Church Ruins

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Off SR 1533 at Brunswick Town State Historic Site

CITY OR TOWN:
Orton (Seventh Congressional District)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Brunswick	CODE 019
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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"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
<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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Raleigh

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Brunswick County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Southport

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: * 1918

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Capitol and Independence Avenue, S. E.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D. C.

CODE:
11

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" 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 ruins of St. Philip's Church consist of four relatively intact brick walls of a rectangular building measuring 54 by 78 feet. The massive walls, 22 feet, 6 inches in height and 3 feet thick at grade, are of English bond below the water table and of Flemish bond above it. The water table is 2 feet, 6 inches high. The interior walls are laid entirely in English bond.

The most striking feature of the church is the large Palladian window opening which was once over the altar and still dominates the east wall of the building. The semicircular-arched central opening measures 15 feet, 4 inches by 6 feet, 5 inches and reaches almost to the top of the wall. The flanking trabeated section are 11 feet, 1 inch by 3 feet, 10 inches.

The west wall is pierced only by a large semicircular-arched central entrance, the top of which is formed by a double row of headers. At 19 feet, 8 inches, it extends nearly the full height of the wall.

The north and south sides of the building are identical. Each has a symmetrical arrangement consisting of a smaller semicircular-arched entrance (15 feet, 10 inches in height), flanked by pairs of arched windows (13 feet, 9 1/2 inches in height). All openings are surmounted by arches of rubbed, gauged brick.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The town of Brunswick, located on the Cape Fear River fourteen miles from its mouth, was laid out by Maurice Moore about 1727. When Brunswick County was formed in 1764, Brunswick became the county seat, but by 1779 the government offices at Brunswick had been moved to the plantation of John Bell near Lockwood's-Folly Bridge. It is thought that the first church erected in Brunswick was little more than a wooden shed which measured 24 by 16 feet. The next church, St. Philip's, was erected there under an act of the "General Assembly XXV George III Chapter XIII," dated September 27, 1751. Richard Price is thought to have been the brickmason, and Thomas Dick was the chief carpenter. Much of the money used to build the new church came from the sale of slaves taken from a Spanish privateer's vessel sunk by the intrepid residents of Brunswick. On April 17, 1760, the Reverend John McDowell, who was the minister of St. James at Wilmington and St. Philip's at the time, wrote to the Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in London that the brickwork of St. Philip's was finished and the greater part of the roof completed. But a few months later, progress was halted by an event described by the Reverend McDowell: "The roof of the new church at Brunswick is all fallen down. . . , it was struck with lightning, last July, and afterwards a prodigious and immoderate quantity of rain falling on it, made it all tumble down: and there it lies just as it fell." But the members of the parish were determined to complete their church. In November, 1760, the General Assembly approved a lottery to provide money to finish the churches in Wilmington and Brunswick. The lottery was held at the courthouse in Wilmington on April 25, 1761, with prizes amounting to £3,000.

The church was dedicated on Whit-Tuesday, (May 24), 1768, by the Reverend Mr. Barnett, who was assisted by the Reverend Mr. Wills. At the outbreak of the Revolution, the residents of Brunswick retired to more protected locations. Most of the buildings in Brunswick, including St. Philip's, were burned by the British during the war, and the site gradually became overgrown. The church, which was never rebuilt, now consists only of four uncovered walls.

St. Philip's was "His Majesty's Chapel in the Colony," where royal governors Dobbs and Tryon had their own specially raised pews installed. In the churchyard are buried many of Brunswick's citizens among whom are Royal Governor Arthur Dobbs (1754-1765), and Alfred Moore, justice of the United States Supreme Court (1799-1805). This early church, described in 1761 as "the largest and most pretentious in the Province," included in its congregation two royal governors, a president of the council, several members of the council, and other influential men of the colony. St. Philip's was cited by Thomas Tileston Waterman for its "unusually large and fine" Palladian

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance

chancel window. Its ruins stand as a reminder of a town, long since destroyed, which played a vital role in the early history of North Carolina.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Corbitt, David Leroy. The Formation of the North Carolina Counties, 1663-1943. Raleigh, North Carolina: State Department of Archives and History, 1950.

Lefler, Hugh Talmage and Newsome, Albert Ray (eds.). The History of a Southern State: North Carolina. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 1963.

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
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		34°	02'	32"
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		77°	56'	55"
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8 Acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Survey and Planning Unit, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION

State Department of Archives and History

DATE

April 22, 1971

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, Director

Title

Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date

April 22, 1971

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

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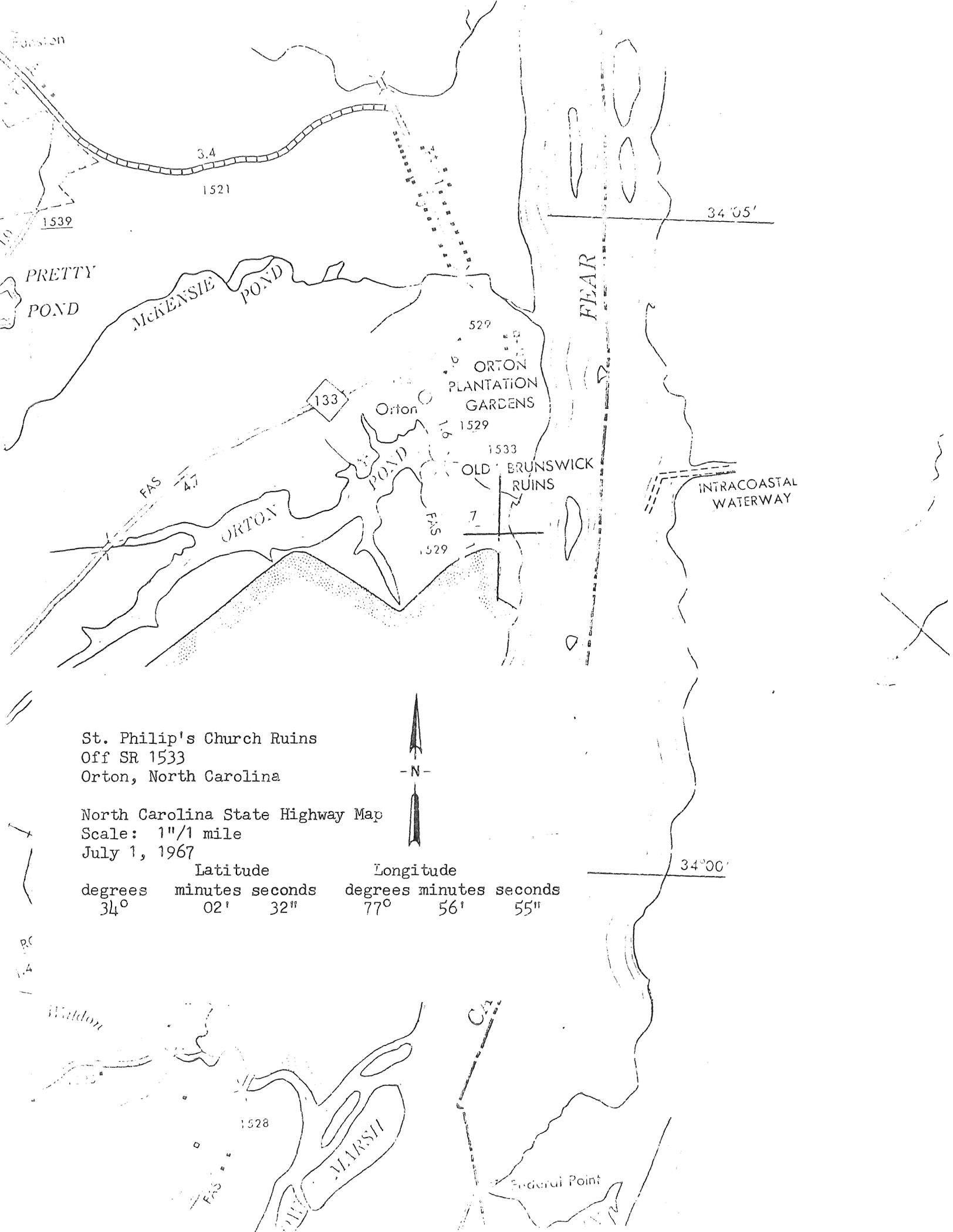
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9. Bibliography

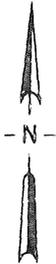
McCoy, William B. "Old St. Philip's Church." One Hundredth Anniversary Commemorating the Building of St. James Church, Wilmington, North Carolina, April 30th and May 1st, 1939, The Two Hundred and Tenth Year of the Parrish, edited by William Ford DeRasset. Wilmington, North Carolina: Wilmington Stamp and Printing Company, 1939.

Saunders, William T. (ed.). The Colonial Records of North Carolina, Raleigh, North Carolina: Josephus Daniels, Printer to the State, 1888.



St. Philip's Church Ruins
 Off SR 1533
 Orton, North Carolina

North Carolina State Highway Map
 Scale: 1"/1 mile
 July 1, 1967



	Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds	
34°	02'	32"	77°	56'	55"	

