

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and Churchyard

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
St. Mary's Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Hillsborough

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Orange CODE: 135

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"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <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 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"/> Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

STREET AND NUMBER:
201 St. Alban's Drive

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Orange County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Margaret Lane

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1964 Federal State County Local

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 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. Matthew's Episcopal Church, an early example of Gothic Revival architecture, is built in Flemish bond with a steep gable roof. Its chief Gothic Revival elements are narrow pointed arches and a sharp spire. The first three bays, built from 1825 to 1826, are marked by large lancet windows filled, as are all the windows, with fine stained glass. The church was extended by one bay to the rear (east) in 1868, making the whole four bays long. The fourth bay on the south side contains a small arched entrance, while the corresponding bay on the north side is treated as an unbroken expanse of wall.

Dominating the west facade is a square tower of brick laid in common bond. The tower, originally constructed in 1830, was rebuilt in 1850. On the ground level is an arched main entrance set in a slightly recessed rectangular panel. This portal consists of a double door surmounted by a wooden tympanum, the whole being set in a reeded wooden surround. The lower portion of each door has four square panels, while the upper portion consists of a single elongated cinquefoil arched panel. The lintel is adorned with a row of small incised quatrefoils. The pointed tympanum is divided into three panels, two of which take the form of small arches over the doors containing cinquefoils; the third is a lozenge-shaped central section featuring a quatrefoil.

The entrance is flanked by a pair of narrow recessed blind lancets. Another blind lancet occurs on the second level of the tower above the main entrance. From the top of the tower rises a sharp pyramidal spire with a diamond-shaped louvered vent on each face and a large cross on the top.

Flanking the tower on either side is a large lancet window set, like the main entrance, in a rectangular recessed panel. At either end of the facade is a narrow recessed blind lancet. This recurrent pattern of alternating open and blind lancets emphasizes the stylistic unity of tower and facade.

The interior of St. Matthew's exhibits a simple center-aisle plan. The walls are of plaster above a vertically-sheathed wainscot. The white plaster provides a dramatic contrast with the dark-stained woodwork used throughout the interior. The ceiling, also covered with sheathing, has an unusual exposed truss system. Intermediate braces rise from the bottom of each rafter to a point several feet below the top of the opposite rafter. These braces intersect each other below the apex of the roof and are, in turn, reinforced by a central vertical post which descends from the ridge.

Extending across the east end at a level several feet below the ceiling is a series of three large triangular arches which contain curved braces which create a curved pointed arch within each triangular arch. These braces rise from low molded imposts and are tangent to the intrados of each arch at a point about midway their length. In the central arch, a small collar beam with kingpost connects the crown of the braces to the apex of the triangular arch; in the apex of each flanking arch is a small triangular panel accented by an incised trefoil.

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Within the left arch is an ornate organ case. The right arch is filled with vertical sheathing and contains an arched doorway with two flat panels in the tympanum and a flat-paneled double door. The central arch, the largest, opens into the chancel which has a low sheathed ceiling like that of the nave.

The simplicity of the large timber arch framing the chancel makes a pleasing contrast with the elaborate, delicate detail within. The chancel features an intricately carved altar and reredos decorated with pointed arches, incised quatrefoils and small fleurs-de-lis. Over the altar is a central lancet window flanked by a smaller one on either side.

In the west end of the church is a gallery with a flat-paneled solid wooden balustrade supported by four Doric columns. It is reached by a closed string stair which rises from the west wall.

St. Matthew's stands in a large churchyard measuring approximately 520 feet by 370 feet. The yard is divided into rectangular plots of different sizes and dotted by gravestones of various designs. Large oaks, hollies, and magnolias shade the cemetery and provide a picturesque frame for this small church on its high knoll.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, built in 1766, burned about 1793. The church was reorganized on August 23, 1824, and the present building was consecrated on May 21, 1826, by the Right Reverend John Stark Ravenscroft, the first Episcopal Bishop of North Carolina. The church was built on land belonging to Thomas Ruffin, who served for twenty-five years as chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. It has been suggested that the architect may have been Francis Lister Hawks, the grandson of John Hawks (architect of Tryon Palace) and a vestryman of St. Matthew's.

Over a period of some forty-five years, St. Matthew's evolved to reach its present form: in 1830 a tower was added; in 1835 a gallery was built; in 1850 the tower was rebuilt; in 1868 an exposed-beam ceiling was substituted for the original flat ceiling and the eastern extension constructed containing the present chancel; and in 1875 the spire was added. When the eastern end was extended, several graves were covered. These were left undisturbed except that the stone markers were incorporated into the brick wall. The Right Reverend William Mercer Green, the first rector of St. Matthew's, later first Bishop of Mississippi and chancellor of the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, is buried beneath the altar.

The beauty of the small church is enhanced by its "sylvan setting high on a knoll." Buried in the churchyard are Chief Justice Thomas Ruffin, the Reverend Moses Ashley Curtis (botanist and musician), and members of some of the more prominent families of North Carolina. Marking many of the graves are early nineteenth century gravestones of striking design and historic interest.

St. Matthew's, cited by Thomas Tileston Waterman as "the first appearance of 'Gothic' influence" in North Carolina church architecture, is notable not only as a landmark overlooking Hillsborough, but also for the many outstanding North Carolina citizens who have been associated with the church.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lefler, Hugh T., and Wager, Paul (eds.). Orange County: 1752-1952.
Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The Orange Printshop, 1953.

Orange County Records, Orange County Courthouse, Hillsborough, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Orange County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

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	0	'	"	0	'	"	36°	04'	33"	79°	05'	53"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 Acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
John B. Wells, III, Survey Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: March 11, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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. H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date March 11, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 _____

Form 10-88
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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9.

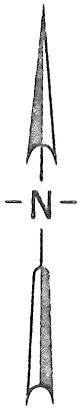
Waterman, Thomas T., and Johnston, Francis Benjamin. Early Architecture of North Carolina. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1947.



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and Churchyard
 St. Mary's Road
 Hillsborough, North Carolina

Champion Map Corporation
 P. O. Box 17435
 Charlotte, North Carolina
 Scale: 3/8"/1000 feet
 no date

<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
36°	04'	33"	79°	05'	53"



HILLSBOROUGH, N.C.

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